

— September 2025 —

Spreading the Word

Welcome as you are, where you are.

Volume 26, Issue 9



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Rockfish Presbyterian Church

The Survival of Christian Tradition

by Pastor Inger

I have had quite a few of you ask me about the billboard in Waynesboro that in black and white proclaims, “God is One, Not Three in One.” The billboard directs the viewer to visit WLC.org, which stands for World's Last Chance.

Apparently there are four billboards designed to get our attention and to get us thinking why we believe what we believe. Which is not something to be fearful of if you are actually going into scripture yourself and asking questions. Yes—do it!

However, unfortunately some people will be led astray by these billboards because they will take them at face value. This particular sect also thinks the earth is flat.

To be honest, I generally don't give these types of things my time but some of you asked, and I have been reading a lot about the gnostic writings that were found back in 1945 near the Egyptian town of Nag Hammadi.

These billboards and the website reminded me a bit of the competing points of view that assaulted the early church and were highlighted in these non canonical writings. Early church fathers such as Irenaeus absolutely freaked out and wrote long treatises against these heresies, and in particular, gnosticism.

“Gnosticism (Greek: gnostikos, “to have knowledge”) is a type of religion based on an

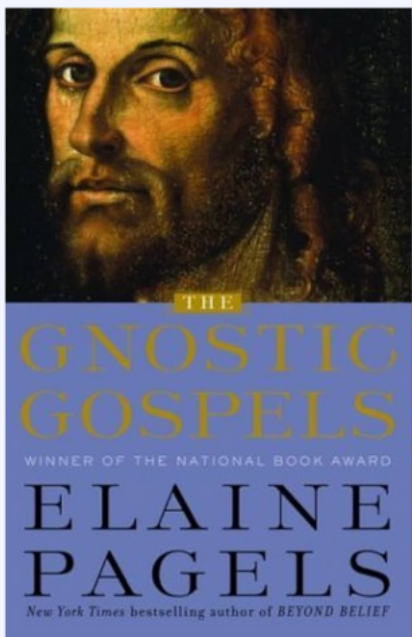
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eclectic mix of Christian, Jewish, and Greek beliefs from the 1st century CE, which claims that personal spiritual knowledge and revelation from the divine world is the “real” truth, rather than official proclamations from religious authorities or official teachings.

Many Christian Gnostic sects for example, claimed that Jesus preached his Gospel to the masses. But the real teachings were given secretly to only a select few, including authors of various texts that highlight thought patterns around early Christianity. [This is an interesting article](#) that highlights various texts.

The book I have been reading is *The Gnostic Gospels* by Elaine Pagels.

In her conclusion she writes that the Nag Hammadi texts “suggest that Christianity might have developed in very different directions...had Christianity remained multiform, it



The point is there will always be competing points of view, and there always have been.

might have disappeared from history, along with dozens of rival cults of antiquity. I believe that we owe the survival of Christian tradition to the organizational and theological structure that the emerging church developed.” (p. 142).

The point is there will always be competing points of view and there always have been. Obviously it was important for the early church to make decisions on what writings to include in the canon and what to discard as heresy.

Did they make errors? Maybe, but I believe the Holy Spirit was involved and continues to work through the writings in our Bible.

I also personally find these other works interesting (weird?) on a historical basis but find that the official canon that we know as our Bible seems to speak in ways that no other writings ever have.

What do YOU think? Because the thinking part is key! Matthew 7: 7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

God is Good!
Pastor Inger

Mission Notes

Do you like to bake cookies? Kairos Prison Ministry helps address the spiritual needs of incarcerated women and their families. They host Kairos Outside Weekends for these families and need dozens of cookies for the event. The cookie recipes are VERY specific and must be followed exactly. If you are interested in helping bake cookies and praying for these families see the sign up sheet & recipes in the narthex or contact Dana Ogilvie or Ann Mische for more information.



Sunday, Sept. 28 during fellowship hour, Bill Iverson and Dave LeGrow will share about their trip to Guatemala in July with CEDEPCA. Come learn more about their trip and how CEDEPCA is making a difference in the lives of people in Guatemala.

The next Missions Committee meeting will be Monday, Sept. 8 at 4 PM in the church library. The committee meeting is open to anyone who is interested. Join us! The committee usually meets the first Monday of each month. Upcoming events include the Mission Fair in November and the Thanksgiving food bags for families in need in Nelson County.

Dana Ogilvie, Co-chair
Missions team

Local Charity Spotlight

Building Goodness Foundation is a nonprofit construction organization, which the Missions Committee supports. They partner internationally with NGOs and domestic nonprofit organizations to design and build structures. Locally (Central Virginia) they partner with low income homeowners, nonprofit organizations and small business owners to complete construction and renovation projects. They connect skilled volunteers from design and construction industries with opportunities to use their professional skills for a good cause. Locally their projects promote the local economy, racial equity and access to essential services.

The Missions Committee is hoping to work together with the Building Goodness Foundation on a specific Nelson County project in the future.

Magnolia Rose is an organization that the Missions Committee supports, which provides assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking in Virginia. The organization is having a Casino Night Benefit in Harrisonburg on October 25, 4 PM to 10 PM. See their Events page for details at www.magnoliarose.org/events.

Guatemala

Your Guatemala Missions Team of Jennifer, David, and Bill will present on **September 28** in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:30 AM service. Please attend to hear who we met, what we learned and experienced, and how we helped the local Mayan population.



Guatemala Mission Trip 2025

Youth Missions

Children's Food Pantry

The children will continue to fill food bags the second Sunday of the month. We are looking for items the children can ask the congregation to put in food bags as a way to include the congregation in the children's outreach.



In the past, donations have been boxed macaroni, toothbrushes & toothpaste or small stuffed animals. Toothbrushes may be asked for again or maybe shampoo.

The additional \$260.00 the children raised in the lemonade sale will be presented to Pastor Leon by the children during children's time on October 5.

Garden News

Goodness Grows

It's hard to believe that we are at summer's end. The garden is winding down, but as beautiful as ever. The majestic sunflowers are gone, but the marigolds still lend their warm golden colors and the zinnias are plentiful and complete the color palette.

Vegetables have been plentiful thanks to abundant rain and sunshine. We hope you have enjoyed the cucumbers, squash, beans, onions, garlic and peppers. Tomatoes are nearing their end, but the second planting of green beans is continuing to produce, and butternut squash is abundant. Many thanks to Bev Lacey for starting our tomato and pepper seeds in her green house and giving them some early TLC.

Our garden crew has been busy traveling this spring and summer and having scheduled surgeries. Some have gone to Italy, England, California, Canadian Rockies, Maine, North Carolina beaches and taken river cruises through Germany and Austria.

While we miss our fellow workers when they are gone, we always seem to cover for each other and the work gets done. Galatians 6 speaks to carrying each other's burdens, and we bring that to life when the call goes out for help. Goodness Grows amongst the garden team as well as in the cultivated rows.

The garden has so far produced over 500 pounds of vegetables. Thank you to the congregation for your monetary support that will go to support Heifer International and grow more goodness.

We look forward to bringing you tomatoes and butternut squash in the next few weeks. Take a walk or drive up the hill to see the beauty of God's creation. **Say "thank you" to our scarecrow, Bob,** who did a marvelous job keeping the birds away.

Deb Andrews
Goodness Grows Garden



Facilities

Fall News

We are happy to report that we have had NO major repairs or problems this past quarter! This fall we will continue to work on the outside Sanctuary doors that have some rot at the bottom of the doors and the frame. One half of one door was completed this summer by Ken and Jim. With the structural repair of the balcony and moving of the pews we have noticed that the backs of the pews have quite a bit of damage from the sun. We will work to restore the pews and also add some much needed paint to the trim. The pavilion shed needs a little TLC and will get a coat of paint also this fall.

When we were painting all of the white posts around the grounds several weeks ago we noticed that the RPC sign out front needs to be replaced. One side has cracked from afternoon sun exposure and the corners are rotted at all secure points. We are waiting for one more estimate and hope that we can complete this project this fall.



I had a walk through with the Fire Department last week. They saw no areas of concern but did ask that we work to keep our stairwells open and free of obstruction. Please try to remember this when you see that someone has placed an object in an area we would need for evacuation in case of an emergency. One area that tends to collect unwanted chairs is the bottom of the stairs off back of the Fellowship Hall. Please do not discard chairs or anything at the bottom of those stairs.

We are no longer going to maintain a supply of medical assistive devices at the church (currently located in a stairwell). The Stoney Creek Fire Department has a number of these items for use by anyone in Nelson County. We will keep one wheelchair to use in case of an Emergency.

So... several planned projects upcoming this fall and fingers crossed, no unplanned events. **We would love to have more members on our team.** No planned meetings, can tear stuff up if indicated, collaborate with a great team to work on projects and help to maintain this Historic Church for generations to come.

Nancy Johnson, Chair
Facilities Management





Blue Ridge Respite Celebrates 1 Year at RPC

Dearest Members and Friends of Rockfish Presbyterian Church, I am writing you with such deep gratitude for your vision and generosity in helping Blue Ridge Respite, formerly known as the Nelson Enrichment Club, be part of your church's outstanding outreach into the community.

The offering of your building literally makes the program possible. Everyone on the staff and facilities committees has been so helpful in helping us work out a shared space without impinging on each other's needs. You have responded quickly when there was a building issue, helped us find more storage space as we grow, allowed us to leave our artwork up, and even worked out opening a third day each week. Your Fellowship Hall is the perfect space for our group and the pavilion has been a blessing to us.

We began one year ago on September 4th, and since then have seen our program grow, change, and improve. We've seen the impact that it makes on the lives of the caregivers as they receive those precious hours of time, free from the worry about caring for or watching over their loved one with dementia or Parkinson's.

We also have the ministry to our volunteers, who have said that they receive so much more than they give in the hours that they spend with our wonderful members each week. **"This has been the most meaningful, and joyful volunteer work I have ever done."**

And for our members, it's also a respite for them, as they get out of their house, make new friends, get to socialize with others and are active the entire time they are with us. They come in with smiles as they greet friends and leave happily exhausted.

As we begin this New Year in of celebration, we lift up our thanks for your generosity of space, volunteers, grants, and the vision to help make this possible. We continue to look forward to working together and welcoming new members and new volunteers.

If you'd like to know more about our program, contact me or ask one of the many volunteer church members. Learn more at blueridgerespite.org

Barbara Shefelton
BRR - Blue Ridge Respite
Program Director

Education News

Young Adult Sunday Afternoon group - Inger is going to send out feelers to see if parents of the younger children want to meet at her house, bringing the children to play, and the parents discuss the BEMA podcasts. (See p. 11 for dates.)

Food For Thought Adult Sunday School Class - Aug. 3 we began the book *Making Sense of the Bible* by Adam Hamilton. This is really several books in one so we will use this book until mid February. We will be looking at questions from the Old Testament, New Testament, About the Nature of Science, and the Bible's challenging passages. We meet in room #5, across from the office at 9:30. All are welcome for this discussion-type class.



Tuesdays Together evening study will continue Tuesdays, 5:30-7:30, with potluck dinner and watching *The Chosen* through Oct. 7. A decision will be made if we will continue with something new after that.

Land of Israel and BEMA podcast study, Wednesdays at 11:30. Inger will continue the study *That the World May Know* by Ray Vander Laan.

Pastor Leon, Haiti Outreach Ministries, visits Oct. 5 to speak at Adult Sunday School and during both services.

Jeri Engebretson, Chair
Christian Education



Volunteers

Monthly volunteers and substitute volunteers are needed for our **Children's Sunday School program**. If you are interested, please take a Protection Policy packet and form in the folder on the narthex table. Follow the directions on the form and submit the form to Trae or Inger when completed. Trae will send in your information for a security check. This process does not take long. Thanks for your interest in this very important opportunity.



Session Highlights

8-19-25

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 Highpockets, a relative of Mary Hopkins, Al Gale, Lance Torcum's mother who is now receiving Hospice care, the Ukrainian people. Thanks were given for Jeri's 98 year old father who suffered a serious fall but suffered no serious injuries.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Session discussed the purchase of an online app which would allow instant input of new members into the church's directory. The app is called Secure Online Directory. Further information is needed before a vote. Wintergreen Wonderland (Virginia Consort) has requested use of the church again this year for its winter concert. **MOTION: Allow Wintergreen Wonderland use of the church for a concert December 14th. APPROVED.** There is a request from ALANON to hold meetings at RFP Church. **MOTION: Allow ALANON to hold weekly meetings on either Tuesdays or Thursdays (their choice) at 1:00pm in Room #5. Meetings would begin Sept. or Oct. APPROVED.**

CLERK'S REPORT:

- **Approved the minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of 7-15-25.**
- **Approved cancellation of September's Stated Session Meeting and Called Session Meeting for New Members.**

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE: Elder Dave Lawson reported the church remains in good financial condition. **MOTION: Stewardship recommends Vicki Davis be elected as Assistant Treasurer to assist Sue Nichols when she is out of town or otherwise unable to act as Disbursing Treasurer. APPROVED.**

Continued...



INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH? Meet Inger in the library after church on the first Sunday of the month. Interested in becoming a member? Let Inger know. Session meets the second Sunday of every month to receive new members.

Session Highlights continued

MOTION: Stewardship recommends that a QR code be printed on the bulletin, in the monthly Spreading the Word and on the weekly email blast from the church office to allow congregants to contribute to the church online. APPROVED.

New Business: Elder Kevin Tucker recommended updating the church's current electronic capabilities: **MOTION: Upgrade our current WIFI technology. APPROVED.** Elder Mike Chambers has received a request from Wreaths Across America to place wreaths on the graves of veterans in the church's cemetery during a ceremony on Dec. 13th. Session will discuss the request at the October meeting.

MINISTRY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS/MOTIONS:

- Elder Mary Hopkins (Worship Ministry Team) **MOTION: To grant Pastor Inger a vacation day on Sept. 14th with Lee Corder as Supply Pastor for both services. APPROVED.** The vacant Usher slots have been filled. She is looking for additional members to join the Worship team.
- Elder Phil DeFusco reported the Mission Ministry Team awarded the Light in the Valley \$2,000 scholarship to Shamaka Carter, an LPN nursing student attending Piedmont Community College.
- Elder Amelia McCulley reported Christy Ruta has stepped down from her position. The committee is actively seeking a Sunday School teacher.
- Elder Jeri Engebretsen (Christian Education Ministry Team) reported volunteers for Children's Sunday School have come forward but more are needed. "Tuesdays Together" have resumed with a potluck and viewing The Chosen.
- Elder Jeri Engebretsen (Liaison Outreach Ministry Team) reported she has updated the Church's Brochure placed in the new member packets. The brochures are also available in the Narthex. She has also updated the church's tax exempt status for church advertising of events, fund raisers, etc.
- Elder Nancy Johnson (Facilities Management) – Revised Facilities Use Forms were submitted for review and approval. Elder Mary Hopkins explained the changes. **MOTION: Approve revised Facilities Use Forms with amendments from Session. APPROVED.**

Rev. Inger Manchester closed the meeting in prayer at 8:20 pm.

Next Stated Session Meeting October 21 at 7:00 PM in the Library. Elder Amelia McCulley will have the Devotion and Opening Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy LeGrow, Clerk

Membership – Active Members – 193, Affiliate Members – 14

Announcements

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP HOUR RESUMES

Sunday, Sept. 7, following the 10:30 AM service. Join us each Sunday! Follow this link to the [Fellowship Hour Sign-Up Sheet](#) Contact Mary Hopkins at mary.t.hopkins3@gmail.com or (443) 521-7583.



NEW YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY AFTERNOON GROUP

- Theme: BEMA Podcast - listen to two episodes in between meeting and we will discuss. Come with questions and we may not have all the answers but that is ok! The point is to wrestle. <https://www.bemadiscipleship.com/> Also available in podcast app
- Dates
 - Sept 28, 3-4 PM
 - Oct 12, 3-4 PM
 - Oct 19, 3-4 PM HALLOWEEN TRICK-OR-TREAT WOODS PARTY
 - Nov 2, 3-4 PM
 - Nov 16, 3-4 PM
 - Nov 30, 3-4 PM
- Place: Inger's House - we will be outside while children play in backyard
 - Inclement weather - we will be at the church while children play around us
 - There is not a plan for babysitting so parents will need to keep an eye on children



WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM SEEKS NEW MEMBERS, as 2 members are stepping down after many years of dedicated service. Our committee meets together for an hour monthly (typically the 2nd Thurs. of the month at 3 PM in the Library) to consider what's happening, or what needs to be considered by Session, concerning the Worship Service, Music, Ushers, Supply Pastors, Flowers, Communion and Decor - in conjunction with the Church calendar, holidays and upcoming events. Might you consider joining us? If interested please contact Inger or Mary Hopkins at mary.t.hopkins3@gmail.com or 443-521-7583.

SINGING FOR THE HORSES

~ IN BENEFIT OF ~
HOPE'S LEGACY EQUINE RESCUE

September 27
2-5pm

*RAIN DATE SEP 28

~Arts & Crafts Auction~
~Vendor Prizes~
~Food Truck~
~Accessible Bathrooms~



Handsome Racoon



**Jane, Marianne &
The Rockfish Children's Choir**



Nelson Bluegrass Collective

Rockfish Presbyterian Church
5016 Rockfish Valley Highway, Nellysford



September Birthdays

Jane Andrews 01

Linda Williams 01

Chris Toombs 08

Keith Smith 10

Sally Bryant 12

Sue Fulton 13

Pat Humphrey 14

Miles Deane 15

Toni Roby 16

Jim Wright 18

Grace Buni 20

Connie Underwood 20

Barb Fenton 22

Lilly Ruffing 24

Priscilla Stone 24

George Bonheyo 25

Stan Scott 25

Louie Andrews 26

Emily Ruffing 28

Lee Goodrich 30



Rockfish Presbyterian Church
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Visit: 5016 Rockfish Valley Hwy
Nellysford, VA 22958

434-361-1221
rockfishpcus@gmail.com
www.rockfishpresbyterian.org

Office Hours
Tue & Thur 9-1, Wed 9-12, 1-2

Pastor Inger O. Manchester
704-252-0924
rpcimanchester@gmail.com

Join us for worship

Sundays 8:30 and 10:30 AM

Adult Sunday School & Middle
School 9:30 AM

Children's Sunday School during
10:30 AM Service

Worship services are recorded
and available via [YouTube](#).

September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 Inger Vacation Emergency Relief offering 9:30am - Adult & Middle 10:30am - Children's Sunday 10:30am - Worship	1 Labor Day 10am - Respite Care 2:30pm - CANCELED 3pm - CANCELED Guitar	2 10am - Education Meeting 5:30pm - Tues Together	3 10am - Respite Care 10am - Wool & Grace 11:30am - Land of Israel 12:30pm - Respite	4 4:30pm - Children's Choir	5 10am - Respite Care	6
7 5 Cents a Meal offering Learn about RPC 8:30am - Worship 9:30am - Adult & Middle 10:30am - Children's Sunday 10:30am - Worship 11:30am - Fellowship Hour	8 10am - Respite Care 3pm - Guitar Circle 4pm - Mission Meeting 5pm - Stewardship Meeting	9 5:30pm - Tues Together	10 10am - Respite Care 10am - Wool & Grace 11:30am - Land of Israel	11 3pm - CANCELED Worship 3:15pm - Rockfish Ringers 4:30pm - Children's Choir	12 10am - Respite Care	13
14 Inger out New Members received 8:30am - Worship 9:30am - Adult & Middle 10am - Food Pantry pack 10:30am - Children's Sunday 10:30am - Worship 11:30am - Fellowship Hour	15 10am - Respite Care 3pm - Guitar Circle	16 9:30am - Outreach Meeting 5:30pm - Tues Together 7pm - CANCELLED Session	17 10am - Respite Care 10am - Wool & Grace 11:30am - Land of Israel	18 3:15pm - Rockfish Ringers 4:30pm - Children's Choir	19 10am - Respite Care	20 Donations due for Hope's 5pm - Church Social at Jeri &
21 8:30am - Worship 9:30am - Adult & Middle 10:30am - Children's Sunday 10:30am - Worship 11:30am - Fellowship Hour	22 10am - Respite Care 3pm - Guitar Circle	23 5:30pm - Tues Together	24 STW Newsletter articles due 10am - Respite Care 10am - Wool & Grace 11:30am - Land of Israel	25 3:15pm - Rockfish Ringers 4:30pm - Children's Choir	26 10am - Respite Care	27 Hope's Legacy Fundraiser 9am - Food Pantry
28 Emergency Relief offering 8:30am - Worship 9:30am - Adult & Middle 10:30am - Children's Sunday 10:30am - Worship 11:30am - Fellowship Hour 11:30am - Guatemala 3pm - BEMA discussion	29 10am - Respite Care 3pm - Guitar Circle	30 5:30pm - Tues Together	1 10am - Respite Care 10am - Wool & Grace 11:30am - Land of Israel	2 3:15pm - Rockfish Ringers 4:30pm - Children's Choir	3 10am - Respite Care	4

Click here to view a live version of the [RPC Calendar](#).

Inger's Inklings

by Pastor Inger



Ah, Fall weather!

Crisp air, fresh apples, pumpkin spice, and all the colorful leaves! What a beautiful gift God gives us every year.

I hope everyone will put the dates on their calendar for our Fall festival where we celebrate the work of

Hope's Legacy Equine Rescue with music, a food truck and an auction on Sept 27. Invite your neighbors!

The next day we will hear all about the Guatemala missions trip at the church Sept 28!

Also- we will definitely be having our trick or treat through the Manchester woods on Oct 19 Saturday 3-4 pm so think about your costumes and set that time aside. It was so awesome last year.

So much going on-God is Good! Let's enjoy life together.

Warmly,
Pastor Inger



Animal Blessing

In August, we had a paw-some great time at the Animal Blessing service!

