

Spreading the Word

Welcome as you are, where you are.

Volume 27, Issue 1



The children participated in telling the story of the Nativity at our Christmas Eve service.

INSIDE, WE ALSO TALK ABOUT:

Missions 2025
Wrapped

Medical
Equipment

Facilities
Winter Update

New Audio
Installation



Rockfish Presbyterian Church

Humility Wins Over Power

by Pastor Inger

Happy New Year, everyone! I hope 2026 brings you all the Fruits of the Spirit—and I know you are reciting them with me right now.

I watched a great movie on Netflix the other day. I had a lot of people tell me how much I would love it, which made me immediately skeptical. I really don't like overt Christian movies. But this one was, to me, pretty awesome. Now first a disclaimer—there are some naughty parts and language. Not for children. However, the overall message is so good. In fact, Presbyterian Outlook wrote an article, [Why 'Wake Up Dead Man' might be the most Christian film of the year](#). It is the new movie in the Knives Out series.

As I watched it I could not help but think that the main character Jud is exactly the minister I desire to be. Real, compassionate and confident in Christ. He is juxtaposed

Continued...

Humility, continued...

with another priest named Wicks who is exactly how no pastor/priest should be.

Brendan McLean, the author of the article says it well, “The film carefully balances this juxtaposition between Jud and Wicks. Where Jud acts through the lens of love, Wicks governs through fear and the desire for control.

Jud has allowed himself to be changed by Christ’s presence; Wicks, by contrast, bends the congregation’s perception of Christ into his own image—punctuated by the conspicuous absence of a crucifix behind his pulpit, removed to “remind” the church of its past sin.

When Wicks is murdered in the middle of worship, suspicion immediately falls on the “outsider” in their midst. Jud becomes the prime suspect, both in the congregation’s eyes and those of the authorities.

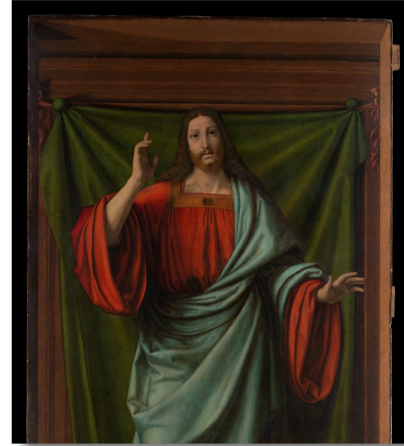
The members of Wicks’ inner circle are ready to fight Jud on behalf of their fallen monsignor. Yet the only other outsider in the story, Blanc himself, believes otherwise and recruits Jud as his partner in solving the case.”

You all give it a watch and let me know what you think.

OPINION
GUEST ESSAY

Behold the ‘God of Generous Out-Flowing Love’

Dec. 28, 2025

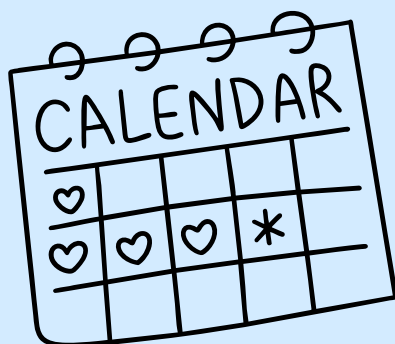


On the heels of thinking about this movie and how humility wins over power, I read an opinion piece in the New York Times, [Behold the ‘God of Generous Out-Flowing Love’ \(Dec 28, 2025\) by Peter Wehmer.](#)

In the article the author interviews N.T. Wright, one of the world’s preeminent New Testament scholars, and asks about the meaning of the incarnation.

Wright answers, “It’s talking about God coming and becoming visible. And then you realize that the whole New Testament says yes, that is precisely what’s happened. It just doesn’t look like what we thought it might.

Continued...



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

NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES DUE
for the February issue:
Jan. 28
Max word count for
submissions is
400 words.

Humility, continued...

It doesn't look like a sudden fireworks display, a blaze of glory. It looks like this quirky, quizzical, deeply wise, challenging young man strolling around, talking to people about how it's time for God to become king. And so for me, the incarnation is a way of saying: At last, creation has got to the place it was supposed to get from the beginning.

Now, built into all of that, of course, is the fact that creation has gone badly wrong in certain ways. When God comes to be in our midst, he's going to deal with that as well. God is going to come, but when he comes, he's got a particular task to do. The coming, the homecoming, is absolutely central."

I love that description of Jesus—quirky, quizzical, deeply wise, challenging young man strolling around, talking to people about how it's time for God to become king.

That is the God we serve. The One who showed us what true humility and servitude looks like, the One who always allows us a path to return to Jesus, the One whose love for us is so immense that we cannot even fathom it.

And when we feel a glimmer of this Christ Love we can hardly wait to pass it back into the world. We don't want to hold on to it—we want to share it! Humbly and with passion!

Let us all strive to be more like Priest Jud in 2026. We wait in gratitude because Christ will come again! Maybe this year?

All thanks be to God!

Happy New Year,
Pastor Inger



Medical Equipment

RPC has a storage unit containing a variety of medical equipment available upon request. You can find a list by following [this link](#).

We will no longer be keeping any RPC equipment at the church, but it all will be available if needed by emailing or texting Cheryl at cab9e@virginia.edu, 434-960-4957. There are wheelchairs and walkers at the church (belonging to Blue Ridge Respite) in case of emergency.



Mission Notes, 2025 Wrapped

Jesus, in response to Peter's repeated "asks" about what Jesus wanted from him, responded, "Feed My Sheep." It was hardly a headline-making ask, but it was deep. It was demanding. Sheep have to be fed daily, looked after, tended. They don't care about the shepherd's needs, and they don't always say thank you. But if the shepherd doesn't do the job, the sheep are lost.

The world can feel pretty lost right now. It's easy to feel helpless and unable to make a difference. HOWEVER: Rockfish Presbyterian is a remarkable place. Being on the Mission Committee, we get to see where we fit in the bigger context of our county, region, and the world. We also get to see how acts of kindness reverberate in the world we actually inhabit.

If you missed the Mission Fair, here are some of those organizations this church has financially supported, and who are local enough to attend:

Magnolia Rose, JABA, CEDEPCA,
Unity in Community,
Dogs Deserve Better,
Piedmont Habitat for Humanity,
the Gladstone Senior Center,
the Nature Foundation at Wintergreen
Summer Camp for underprivileged children,
Rockfish River Elementary School Emergency Fund,
Tye River Elementary School Emergency Fund,
Nelson County Middle & High School Emerg. Funds,
the Sexual Assault Resource Agency (SARA),
the Heritage Center Food Panty,

the Nelson County Food Panty,
the Nelson County Community Development Foundation,
Georgia's Friends,
Presbyterian Disaster Relief,
Presbyterian Hunger Program,
Horizon House,
Central Virginia Farm Workers,
Southern Environmental Law Center,
MACAA, Haiti Outreach,
Camp Light, Hospice of the Piedmont,
All Blessings Flow, Houses of Wood and Straw,
and Camp Hanover.

We also gave our time:

We baked 60 dozen cookies for
Kairos prison ministry,
we prepared food bags at
Thanksgiving and Easter,
we knit prayer shawls, hats and mittens,
we distributed wood,

we bought Care Bear Christmas presents,
we assembled backpacks for Nelson
County preschoolers,
we volunteered time to
Creative Works/Camp Light preparing for
their Festival of Lights.

We can be more involved. Involvement means feeling like part of the solution, not sidelined in the world's problems. It means giving and feeling the love of God.

We would love to have you join the committee. You can adopt a project or two, bring new projects, and help us decide how to allocate our resources. Meetings are the first Mondays of the month at 4:00 PM in the library. It's a great use of time, talent, and energy. Our next meeting is January 5. Y'all come!

Dana Ogilvie, Co-Chair Missions Ministry



A Christmas song, literally about to happen at our church



*Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy: Do you hear what I hear?
Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy: Do you hear what I hear?*

*A song, a song, high above the trees,
With a voice as big as the sea, With a voice as big as the sea*

About two years ago we began considering modifying/upgrading our audio equipment but delayed due to financial considerations and the then not-so-critical need.

However, in the latter half of this year, we began experiencing significant problems with the aging amps and mixer in the current rack by the organ.

After a professional analysis and conclusion that it was time to replace most of the gear, we obtained proposals and received budget and Session approval to proceed.

Two contractors will begin coordinated work on Jan 20 to totally replace all amplifiers, speakers, wiring, the mixer and the rack. It entails running wiring in the Sanctuary crawlspace, which can be entered only through an opening that is used for the HVAC ducting.

That means that our HVAC maintainer (Boyers) will need to **disconnect that duct on Jan 19 and re-connect it as soon as the wiring is completed** (hopefully within a couple days), so that we can return to heating the Sanctuary.

Once the wiring has been installed under the direction of the second audio contractor, the audio equipment can be set up and tested.

We will receive training and specific guidance on its operation by the second contractor.

It will be a digital system with multiple pre-sets to handle most situations and will be installed in a movable rack located in the back corner of the Sanctuary, closest to the Narthex doors.

It will also be able to be controlled via a wireless connection through an iPad app, which means we will be able to make adjustments on the fly from anywhere in the Sanctuary during a Service to ensure the best audio quality both in the Sanctuary as well as to the audio feed that goes to the recording camera in the balcony.

Once we are in operation and are able to see the extent of human-controlled interactions/adjustments needed during church Services, we will be able to determine how we can best handle covering the Services.

We think right now that 2-4 trained people should be sufficient for scheduling adequate support, and it may be that with the multiple pre-set configurations, that a simple “on” and appropriate “select 1, 2..” would take care of most Services.

So soon we will be able to say, “Do you hear what I hear?” and receive a resounding “YES” from everywhere in the Sanctuary!

With many thanks to our generous congregation supporting all the ministries of Rockfish PC!

Ken Engebretson
(the guy who wears hearing aids...)

Facilities

Winter Update

Welcome to 2026! Why is it that when you are “older,” time seems to fly by? When I was 15, time took forever!!!

Some good news from the Facilities Team for January. **The new audio system** will be installed beginning January 19. The sanctuary will be closed for use (choir rehearsal) until January 22 or 23. We give a huge thank you to Ken Engebretson, Kevin Tucker and Ron Culberson for putting this very complex project together. We certainly look forward to consistent sound throughout the sanctuary and a much more user-friendly system that will control that sound. This new system will also improve the sound on the YouTube sermons.

We have installed a **motion detector activated light at the front Narthex entrance**. So far it has worked flawlessly. We will get another one up and running for the back Narthex entrance and office soon. Thank you to Connie Underwood for that suggestion.

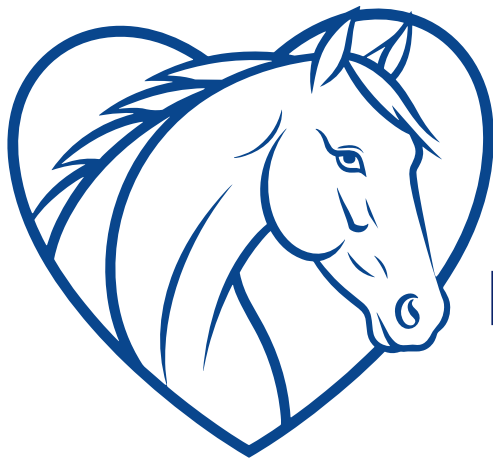


The Blue Ridge Respite program continues to grow. They are needing ready access to wheelchairs and a rollator for several of their participants. This equipment will be stored in the stairwell as you go down to the offices. RPC will still be able to use this supply in case of an emergency at the church. If you need to borrow a wheelchair, rollator or any other DME (durable medical equipment) please contact Cheryl Borgman at cab9e@virginia.edu.

We also would like to **thank those of you have donated needed items to RPC**. As a reminder, if the donation is music related, please contact Cynthia Ramsey, Music Director, regarding your proposed donation first. Any other donations you are considering, please contact me first. We want to make sure anything that can be reused goes to the right organization.

Nancy M Johnson
Chair, Facilities Management





Hope's Legacy Hearts for Horses March 14, 2026

Hope's Legacy Equine Rescue hosts Hearts for Horses, an exciting benefit evening at **Castle Hill Cidery**—and it marks the launch of our **capital campaign** to build a new, multi-functional **Educational Center**.

This new center will replace our aging and inadequate Volunteer Center and will allow Hope's Legacy to continue—and expand—its life-saving mission. As you know, Hope's Legacy is renowned for rehabilitating abused and neglected horses and donkeys with the help of more than **100 dedicated volunteers**. We also provide **statewide training for animal control officers** and respond to **animal seizure rescues across Virginia**. Our work is growing, and our facilities must grow with it.

Hearts for Horses will be a lively and meaningful evening featuring:

- Delicious heavy appetizers
- Live music
- A curated silent auction
- Great company—all in support of an incredible cause

This is more than a benefit; it's the beginning of an important journey, and we would love to share it with you.

Tickets are limited, and we are hoping to reserve a table of friends and supporters—so please save the date and purchase your tickets soon using this [link](#).

Thank you for believing in this mission and for being part of the community that makes Hope's Legacy possible. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR TIM HESS

Just as there are no words that can capture the depth of the grief our family is experiencing over the sudden passing of Tim, there are no words that can express our gratitude for the care and concern that has been extended to us. Every act of compassion has given us a momentary reprieve from the pain. We are humbled. We are thankful.

A celebration of life for Tim is planned for **Saturday, April 25, 2026 at 1:00pm** in the **Carriage House at Oakridge Estates** just outside of Lovington. We would welcome your presence. The address is: Oakridge Carriage House, 2382 Oakridge Road, Arrington, VA 22922.

— Lynne Hess

Concert at RPC

Personal friends of Paula and Lee Corder, the musicians have offered to perform at Rockfish on **Sunday afternoon Feb 8**, time to be announced. A love offering will be accepted. How exciting! We are so blessed in so many ways.



ARVID PETTERSEN IS COMING TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Norwegian pianist and singer Arvid Pettersen has released 14 albums, written 200 songs, and performed 4,000 church concerts and musical engagements in 20 countries. Arvid has reached hundreds of thousands across the world — from nursing homes, youth camps, prisons, and soup kitchens to concert halls, megachurches, and parliamentary buildings. Arvid's music is marked by hope and faith, and the intimate, acoustic atmosphere often moves listeners to tears of joy.

On his U.S. tour in February 2026, Arvid will be joined by his wife, Ragnhild Miriam, and his daughter, Josefine. Both are known for their distinctive vocal styles and have long careers as performing artists. Together, the three create a unique sound with harmonies delivered with world-class precision.

January Birthdays

GORDON DAVIS 02

SUZI WISLER 04

WANETA SIMMONS 07

ANN ASHTON 09

CHRISTINE OTTERSBERG 12

BODHI THIBAUT 20

MICHAEL CHAMBERS 22

LISA SHANNON 25

REV. INGER MANCHESTER 26

ZOE OGILVIE 26

DICK AVERITT 27

RYAN TULLY 28

EHREN SIEBERT 30

MARIE BORGMAN 31

NANCY KERN 31



Barb Shefelton, Director of Blue Ridge Respite, shares some holiday fun with BRR members, Terry and Bruce at their annual Christmas party.

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Office Hours
Tue., Wed., Thu. 9 AM — 1 PM

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

Join us for worship

Sundays 8:30 and 10:30 AM

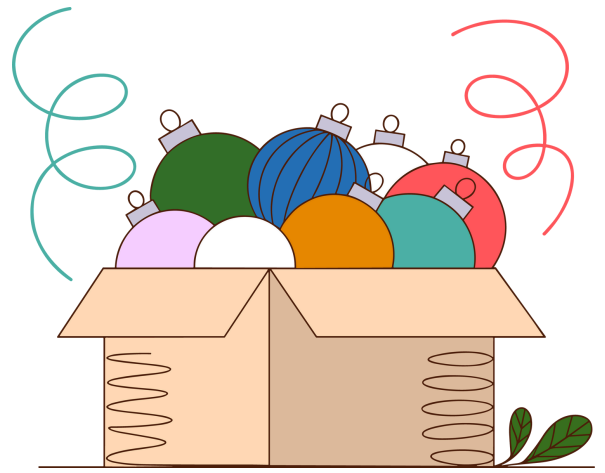
Adult Sunday School & Middle
School 9:30 AM

Children's Sunday School during
10:30 Service

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

Inger's Inklings

by Pastor Inger



It is December 29 and most of the Christmas decor has been cleaned from my home. The tree will be gone tonight.

This trait of mine—**get it done**—annoys the heck out of Lee who was trying to watch his football games on Sunday afternoon as I zoom around, coughing and making him feel guilty for not helping me as I am also—at this moment—sick.

I really should calm down and rest, but all the “stuff” which I love leading up to Christmas so very much makes me crazy with clutter the day after. I simply cannot sit there and not see it. Is anyone else like me? I can't even look at a Christmas cookie right now. (And I KNOW we are still in Christmastide—so don't worry I haven't stripped the church.)

It made me think that the desire to get back to normal is such a gift. Yes, a gift. Excitement and celebration are fun, but we also LIKE our lives in regular mode. All of the fa-la-la-la fun is good for a season, but it also reminds us that “nothing” is good too.

I want to be bored. Doesn't boring sound good right now? And salad. Ok... but not too much boredom (or salad) because **we do have important celebrations lined up in January and February so be sure to check the Rockfish Calendar!**

For example, on **February 8 there will be a concert at our church** in the afternoon by some Norwegian musicians who are performing in the US, and as a special favor to Lee and Paula Corder will be sharing their talent with us! More information to come. We are blessed!

May the year of 2026 bring all of us the wisdom to know when to just slow down and breathe. AND also, when to add a bit of fun and challenge.

May the Holy Spirit guide us through it all.

In Christ's Love and Hope,
Pastor Inger

