

Spreading the Word

Welcome as you are, where you are.

Volume 27, Issue 10



Finding God Among the Cathedrals

by Pastor Inger

I have just returned from a fabulous vacation where I was gone for two weeks.

We visited lots of countries, went to many stunning churches, and were all pretty awed by the art.

I think it is amazing how the Bible stories were painted in such detail to help the illiterate people of the time know and visualize what they were hearing from the pulpit.

Eastern Orthodox churches were also incredibly neat to visit with the common element of the Pantocrater Jesus in the dome. Breathtaking.

Continued...

INSIDE, WE ALSO TALK ABOUT:

Join us for Fall Classes
Help Bake Cookies for Kairos Prison Ministry
Many Hands of Congregational Life
Welcome Our Newest Members
20+ Local Orgs at November Mission Fair



Rockfish
Presbyterian
Church

Searching, continued...

I love to imagine the thousands of people who had worshipped God there since the 1500s.

We also visited a Greek monastery that was pretty big and housed exactly two nuns. But it seemed financially supported and was in beautiful shape so there is that gift.

There was a speaker on our ship who had written a book, *Cathedrals: Clues to Identifying Biblical Figures in Cathedrals Around the World* by Lorrie Wenzel. Here are some hints.

The Apostles: Peter is shown holding keys. Andrew is depicted with an X shaped cross. Simon is identified by a saw. Bartholomew carries a flying knife (the ways they were martyred).

The Gospel Writers: Matthew is the winged angel, Mark is the winged lion, Luke is the winged ox, John is the winged eagle.

So it was interesting trying to identify all the statues through this symbolism.

All wonderful. And yet my co-traveler Megan (a devout Catholic) and I both struggled to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in those places. It was hot, we were admiring the art, we were trying to discern purposes, we were amazed at the relics we saw (the shin bone of St. Thomas for example), there was A LOT to take in.



It really reminded both of us that God may not be found in a place, or in a piece of art, or a beautiful cathedral but is **found in the quiet of our hearts**.

I think God CAN be in any or all of those above places, but also can be in our living room, on our porch, in the woods or when two or more are gathered in God's name.

So I am happy to be home—although I LOVED my trip—and worshipping in our simple sanctuary, reading and praying in my own living room corner, and just having some quiet back in my life.

How blessed it is to be happy in my regular life, too.

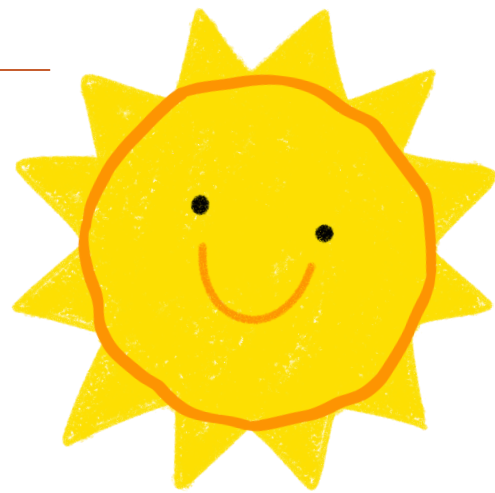
God is good!
Pastor Inger

Fall Classes Begin, Join Us!

Confirmation class began Sunday, September 6. There are a total of eight confirmands led by Sandi Winston and Rev. Carl Rush. They will meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 10:30.

Sunday school began for the pre-K, elementary and middle school on September 13. The middle school class will meet on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays at 10:30.

We are in need of more volunteers to work with the children during the Sunday school time, especially in the pre-K and middle school classes.



Adult Sunday school class is studying *Fruits of the Spirit* by Rilla June September 13—November 8.

Wednesday Adult class with Inger, 11:30 AM on Wednesdays, is watching *Videos of the Holy Land* by Ray Vander Laan.

Jeri Engebretson,
Christian Education Chair

Cemetery News

Historical Markers Installed

The McAlexander cenotaph was cleaned and the names of the two sons were engraved on the reverse side. The Sons of the American Revolution grave markers were installed at the cenotaph and the Samuel Woods memorial stone.



The grave marking ceremony to honor four Revolutionary War veterans is scheduled for **11 AM on Saturday, October 10**, in the lower cemetery. RSVP to Tom Quigley at tjquigley6@gmail.com if you would like to attend.

Mike Chambers,
Cemetery Chair

Baking Cookies for Prison Ministry

The Mission Committee is again partnering with Kairos Prison Ministry to **bake 100 dozen cookies by Oct. 13**. See the sign up sheet in the narthex or contact Stacy Rush. There is also a sign up sheet in the narthex for people interested in receiving more training about Kairos and how RPC can help.



“... I was in prison, and you came to visit me.” (Matthew 25:36)

Kairos Prison Ministry is a lay-led, interdenominational Christian ministry in which men and women volunteers bring Christ’s love and forgiveness to prisoners and their families. The Kairos programs take the participants on a journey that demonstrates the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. Kairos Prison Ministry is Christian in nature although no religious affiliation is necessary to be a participant. The programs involve a weekend experience followed by guests or participants gathering regularly for accountability, support and prayer.

Kairos Prison Ministry is made up of three programs, which reach over 27,000 people annually:

1. Kairos Inside - 3 ½ day weekend designed to start building Christian community inside the institution
2. Kairos Outside - Special weekend retreat designed to support the female relatives/friends of men and women who are or have been incarcerated
3. Kairos Torch - Weekend followed by a long-term mentoring process that encourages young men and women to move towards making better life choices.

Our church is providing cookies for Kairos Inside at Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women and Buchanan Correctional Center for Men.

Participate in RPC's Mission Projects!

The Missions Committee has several exciting opportunities coming up, and everyone is welcome to be part of the work!

Our next **Mission Committee meeting** will be **Monday, October 5, at 4 PM in the church library**. We are always looking for new members who would like to help us spread God's love to our community and beyond.

Mark your calendars for the **Mission Fair on Sunday, November 8, following the 10:30 AM service**. Representatives from more than 20 local organizations will be joining us to share about the ways they serve Nelson County. Come learn about these wonderful organizations and the important work they are doing in our community!

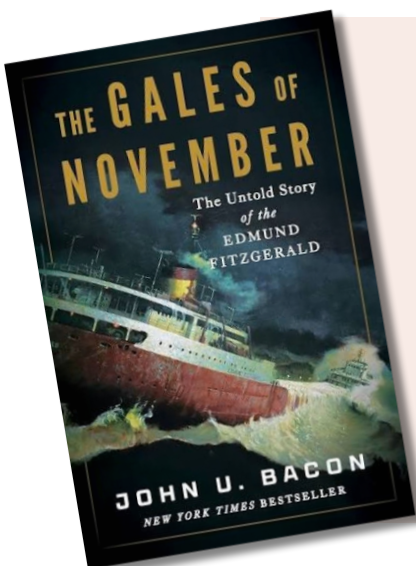


We are also **partnering with Camp Light** again this year to pack cookie-decorating bags for their annual Holiday Wonderland event. Watch for more information about volunteer sign-ups.

As Thanksgiving approaches, Missions will once again be preparing **Thanksgiving food bags** for local families in need. Last year, RPC helped provide holiday meals for **more than 204 people**. Thank you for helping us continue this important ministry and make a difference in the lives of our neighbors!

Dana Ogilvie, Mission Chair

RPC Book Club



What We're Reading

***The Gales of November - The Untold Story of the Edmund Fitzgerald* by John U. Bacon**

The Gales of November investigates the 1975 sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald on Lake Superior during a devastating storm, exploring America's maritime history and the lives of 29 lost crew members.

Comfort for Cancer Patients

The Outreach Ministry Team has been busy putting together **25 infusion bags** for distribution at Martha Jefferson Hospital.

The Wool & Grace knitters contributed **25 beautiful lap blankets and scarves** to include with the bags... thank you knitters.

A second distribution will occur in the spring with bags going to UVA. Knitted caps are in the works to include with these bags.

Thank you to JJ Toombs for transporting the Wishing You Well bags and the knitted items to SMJH.

Allison Bell, Outreach Ministry Team



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

**Newsletter
Articles Due**
for the November issue:
Oct. 28
**Max word count for
submissions is
400 words.**

Many Hands, One Church Family

Greetings from the Congregational Life Ministry Team!

Did you know there are many ways to serve and care for one another at Rockfish Presbyterian Church—often behind the scenes?

Fellowship Hour

Our Sunday fellowship hour doesn't happen by itself! Volunteers help with setup, coffee, treats, and cleanup. We have a weekly sign-up sheet in the narthex for anyone who would like to bring something. Love to bake? We can always use extra cookies in the freezer!

Caring for One Another

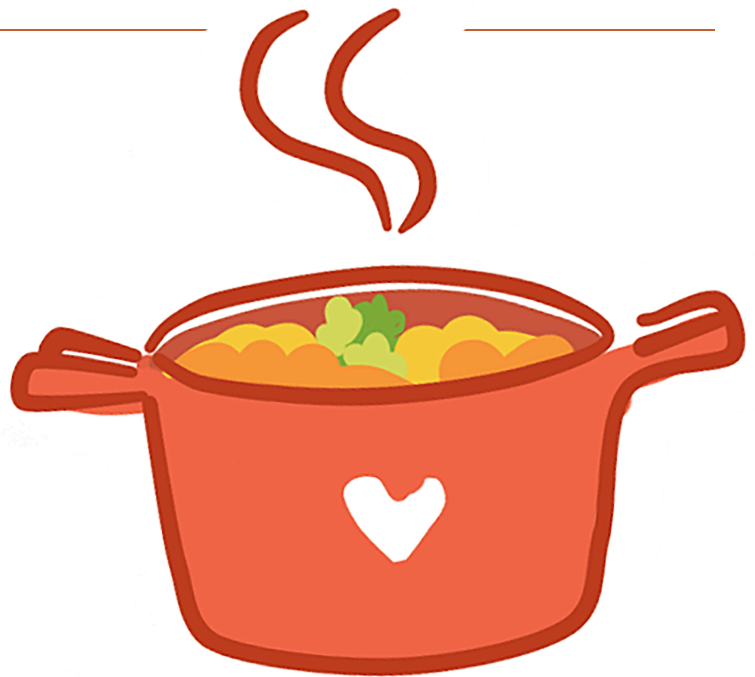
When someone is recovering from an illness or procedure, or experiencing the loss of a loved one, Inger takes prepared meals to offer a little extra care during a difficult time. We keep the freezer stocked with meals for this.

Card Ministry

Enjoy sending cards? Our Card Ministry provides encouragement and support to members of our church family throughout the year—a simple reminder that you are never alone; you have a church family here at RPC.

Memorial Services

Sue Fulton continues to coordinate our Reception Committee, with volunteers helping provide refreshments, setup,



cleanup, and a welcoming space for a reception following a memorial service.

And More!

Congregational Life also coordinates the RPC directory, name tags for new friends and members, and some of our bulletin boards.

There truly are many hands that make these ministries possible, and we are always looking for more!

Would you like to help or learn more?

Please contact me at jakratz79@yahoo.com. There is a place for everyone, whether you can help occasionally or would like to become part of a regular team.

Thank you to all who share their time, talents, and caring hearts to make Rockfish Presbyterian Church such a welcoming church family!

Jen Kratz, Congregational Life Chair



Keeping Everything in Shape for Our Active, Busy Church

It has been several months since you have had an update of the tasks and workings of the Facilities Team. Nothing very exciting to report, which is our goal... **keep things quiet and under control.**

We have been able to accomplish a few projects this spring and summer that were planned. The **pavillion** and shed were painted and stained, and the **gutters and downspouts** were cleaned. **Septic** was serviced so we are good for another 7-8 years.

The **railings** at the back entrance to the narthex were secured, sanded and painted. We had the **roof line** of the narthex and sanctuary evaluated by Roof Top Services for possible problems in the roof and none were noted (free of charge).

We also had the **foundation** of the sanctuary assessed and the structure shows no signs of deterioration.

The bulky and uncooperative **divider between the music room and sanctuary** was removed and replaced. Thanks to Randy and Rosie Gantt for their guidance and expertise.

We also continue to work with the **Blue Ridge Respite** program to maintain a positive and collaborative alliance in sharing our kitchen and other storage space at RPC.

We have submitted **budget requests** for 2027 that include washing of our windows inside and out for spring of 2027, and it will be time for the pew cushions to get a thorough cleaning again.

RPC is a very active and busy church utilized by many outside groups, and that is our goal. **Storage space** is very limited with every room, closet, stairwell, and the narthex basement being used to accommodate the needs of RPC and our guests.

If there is a **musical item or instrument** that you think RPC could possibly use, please contact our music director prior to dropping it off. All other items **please contact our church administrator or me** prior to leaving at the church. We would like to make sure that your valuables reach the best possible destination.

Nancy M. Johnson, Facilities Chair





Session Highlights



Rockfish Presbyterian Church (RPC) Session Highlights 9.15.26

Pastor's Report:

- Reminder: Called Session Meeting (Membership) 9.20.26 after 10:30 service.
- Requesting Committee Continuity Folders from each chair that document committee responsibilities, tasks, dates, etc. A Session Retreat will be held in January 2027 to review.
- Inger requesting Committee Chairs' 2026 Committee Highlights, due to her next week.

Ministry Team Reports:

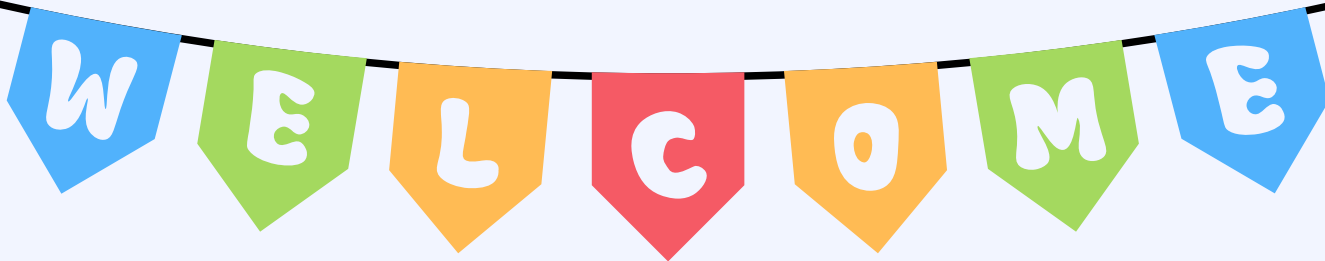
- Elder Harris Luscomb [Stewardship] - stated RPC's Annual Stewardship Campaign will be beginning soon. Committee 2027 budget requests due by 10.13.26.
- Elder Phil Defusco [Missions] - a Care Portal program has been created by Nelson County Board of Social Services. Should we decide to participate, this Care Portal program would be a source of vetted needs in our community. At least five churches need to sign up in order for the program to be rolled out in Nelson County. RPC would need at least two people to be trained in using the program. The needs could be met financially (i.e., providing funds for an electric bill); materially (i.e., provide and deliver clothing, or food), etc. More information to follow.
- Elder Jeri Engebretson [Christian Education] - volunteers still needed to help with pre-K and middle school Sunday school; and confirmation class has started, with eight confirmands.
- Elder Bronwyn White [Outreach] - Hope's Legacy Fund Raiser, 9.26.26. Food, Music, Animals, Bake Sale! Bid on silent auction items up until and on that date!
- Elder Amelia McCulley
 - [Personnel] - Interviewing for Youth Director position.
 - [Health & Safety] - positive comments on the three-month Greeter Pilot Program, resulting in: MOTION: approve a Greeter Program for the 10:30 service as outlined in the Health & Safety report. APPROVED
- Elder Bill Muse [Grounds/Cemetery] - mulch being spread this month, 13 volunteers signed up to help with flowers/shrubs maintenance.
- Elder Kevin Tucker [Administration] - continued work on choosing new software and website home page design.

Next Stated Session Meeting: 10.20.26 in the Library.

Active Members - 197

Affiliate Members - 14

(Nancy Small death, 8/29/2026)



Meet our New Members!



Rosie &
Randy Gantt



Gayle Hankins



Judy &
Ed Anderson

If you are interested in becoming a member of our church
we would love to speak with you! Below is the next date when the Session will receive
new members in 2026 following the 10:30 service. Please let Inger know if you are
interested, rpcimanchester@gmail.com.

Nov. 1, 2026

October Birthdays

Dana Ogilvie 03

Alma Heller 06

Dave Wisler 07

Pack Deane 08

Norm Fenton 08

Lance Torcom 09

Mike Thibault 12

Willow Dowell 17

John Savides 19

Elliot Deane 20

Mac Lumpkin 21

Amelia McCulley 21

Bronwyn White 21

Bill Heard 23

Kerrie Manthey 23

Susan Luscomb 30

Olivia Ellis 31



Rockfish Presbyterian Church
Mail: P.O. Box 278
Visit: 5016 Rockfish Valley Hwy
Nellysford, VA 22958

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

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 9:30 AM
Children's Sunday School during 10:30
Service

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

Follow us on [Facebook](#)





ROCKFISH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MISSION FAIR



20+ LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

DATE OF EVENT :
SUNDAY
NOV. 8

OPENS:
FOLLOWING
10:30 SERVICE

EVENT PLACE :
FELLOWSHIP
HALL

