Calling all Children and Children at Heart for the MACAA/HEAD START Christmas Party

Where: Rockfish Presbyterian Church
When: December 4, 2022 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Who is invited: All children and adults in the Rockfish Presbyterian Church and the all children (with families) participating in Head Start in Nelson County. Santa will attend. There will be cookies, games, crafts, face painting, music and loads of fun.

If you are providing cookies, please mark on the package if they contain nuts or peanut based products. Sign up sheet for cookies is in the church lobby. Please deliver cookies to the church by December 3. Unless in sealed containers, please put them in the refrigerators.

Stewardship Campaign 2023

The Stewardship Committee thanks you in advance for your faithfulness and generosity. Many of you have been faithful in your giving but have not pledged. Might you consider a pledge this year? As always, our 2023 budget is based on the pledges we receive. Pledge cards are available on the table in the Narthex.

Do you want to make a donation to the church for one of the many projects that are undertaken during the year? Examples might be the Thanksgiving baskets or Children’s Food pantry. Please complete a reimbursement voucher and indicate that you want it to be an "in-kind" donation. This will allow the church to accurately total the full expense of the line item and also record the fact that you are making a donation against the cost. When the ministry team makes its budget for the following year, the team will know more accurately what amount is needed. Contact Sue Nichols for more information.

Holiday Services

December 18 there will be a Combined Worship service at 10 a.m. At 4 p.m., join us for an evening of worship, singing and spectacular music for Lessons and Carols. A new Rockfish tradition! Followed by a reception of Christmas cookies. Please come!

Christmas Eve
We will have two services— 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. at both services children, grandchildren and guest children are invited to participate by choosing a costume and participating in telling the Christmas story as it is read. We will also have communion and candlelight. Joy Joy Joy!

Christmas Morning- Christmas falls on Sunday this year so we will have one service at 10 a.m. to celebrate the birth of Christ together. A simple reflective service to celebrate the coming of our King.

January 1 there will be a Combined Worship service at 10 a.m.
Winter Wonderland

I am so looking forward to seeing what Winter is going to be like here in Nelson County. I was the pastor who did the snow dance back in my old church (to the fury of the retired people from Ohio) and my folks, when I announced I was leaving, told me they hoped I got snowed in as a punishment in Virginia. Made me laugh. Just got my skis and ski passes so we are ready! On another note- how much fun are we having here at Rockfish? The Wood ministry is underway, the Children's choir will be performing out in the community, we have numerous Advent plans, and hopefully everyone is finding a place to land in ministry. In January we will have a "ministry fair" to showcase all the opportunities that are available. This is YOUR church so all of us should find a place to serve God and if you are not finding it, let's talk.

This Christmas is going to be a very different one for Lee and I. We are at the stage where our children are sharing time with their partner's family and this year we will only have one of four of our children. Coleman will reap the benefits of an only child. Next year will look very different as it will be "our" year. I am sure many of you have been through this. However with Christmas day falling on a Sunday I will be quite busy. We will be having the two Christmas Eve Services, 4 and 6 and then 10 am Christmas Morning. Look forward to sharing those special worship services with you.

If you look in my office you will find all the nativity costumes from the years past spread out. Dana helped me to organize and I ordered some more costumes so we will be ready for as many children and grandchildren that you bring! All children are welcome at both the 4 and 6 to join in. No speaking parts just walking in when its their "part"

And finally- the Advent Devotions will be released weekly. They are fabulous!!

Advent Blessings with love,
Pastor Inger

Reminder:  The office is closed the last week in December.  The January STW will not be published until the first week in January.  Please send to the church office by December 21 any announce- ments for the first week in January .
Children’s Sunday School is underway! Many thanks to the volunteers who meticulously cleaned, prepared and decorated the classroom and nursery, enabling Childcare Director, Ashley Cornelius, and a team of volunteers to begin working with the children during the 10 a.m. service. If you are interested in volunteering to assist Ashley occasionally, please let Inger know. The more volunteers we have, the less often you will miss the service, but the trade-off is the joy of working with these wonderful children.

Adult Sunday School has begun a four week Advent program, ‘Light of the World.’ Written by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, a Vanderbilt University Professor of Religion, who loves Christmas and its stories, she approaches them from her Jewish background, giving us new insights into familiar scriptures. Join us at 9 on Sunday mornings in the classroom downstairs.

In anticipation of busy schedules during December, Kirk Noons will suspend meeting until after the holidays, resuming at a date to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Luscomb, Chair
Christian Education Ministry Team

Mission Ministry

The Missions Committee thanks all those who helped with the Thanksgiving baskets this year, organizing the purchases (Kate Humphrey), buying the food, purchasing, or baking pies, packing the boxes, and carrying them to the cars. It was a great team effort and our Congregation fed 104 people! Sharon Gress led the campaign.

Head Start Christmas Party (the first in two years) will be 2 to 4 PM on 4 Dec. and Santa may make an appearance! Ann Mische is organizing the party and is asking for cookie donations.

Under the leadership of Wendy Culberson, the Care Bear Program is underway and the names of 45 children have already been taken. A few more tags are available.

We are also seeking more members for our group. If interested in assisting, please attend our afternoon meetings at 4:00 p.m. on the first Monday of the month or contact Bill Iverson.

RPC Grounds Cleanup is planned for Tuesday, December 6, 9:00 a.m. to take care of the leaves. Please bring rakes, tarps and leaf blowers. Thank you for your help. Rain Date is Tuesday, December 13 at 9:00 a.m.

Contact Mike Smythers with any questions.

A couple items to keep in mind when we gather in the building, doing so many good things, from fellowship hour to attending meetings to working in the kitchen. Please take an extra effort to make sure that refrigerator and freezer doors are fully closed after you place or remove items in them; and when you are in the last bunch (or person) leaving the building, make sure the doors are locked. There have been several instances of doors being left unlocked overnight and a partially open freeze door resulted in a “fried” circuit board with a several hundred dollar repair bill. Many thanks from your Facility Management team for your extra attention to these items!

Thank you,

Ken Engebretson, Chair
Facility Management Team
Youth News

On Sunday, November 13, the youth were thrilled to introduce the children to the Children’s Food Pantry Bags. The youth have been filling the bags with snacks specifically for the children of Nelson County for the past 16 years. Victor, Sophie, Nathan and Zach worked with 8 enthusiastic children who were all excited to help other children. Seventy-five snack bags were efficiently filled with a drink, soup cup, macaroni cup, fruit bar, apple and cookies. It was wonderful to see this tradition of service being passed on to the younger children. The youth look forward to working with the children of the church on future mission projects.

What have the youth been up to this fall outside of the church?
- Sophie Ogilvie has been working on the One Act Play - “The Play that Goes Wrong.” The play is competing in the State Competition in December.
- Nathan Manthey has been participating in Cross Country and travel soccer.
- Jack Winter ran in the State Cross-Country meet and has been on the travel soccer team.
- Anna White competed with the Cross-Country team in the state meet.
- Anna Winter was the Cat in the Hat in the middle musical - "Seussical." She also has been on the travel soccer team.
- Zach Manthey and Jack Winter have been running Cross-Country and participating in travel soccer.

Upcoming December activities:
Shopping for toiletries for the Clothing Closet at the High School (date to be determined), trip to Unlocked History Escape Room - December 17 and working on first aid kits for refugees.

Submitted by
Dana Ogilvie

Dana Ogilvie’s moving intro into answering how do we feed hungry children was to talk about what the Youth did when they were 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. Sophie Ogilvie was three when she voted to start a Children’s Food Pantry and her brother and sister just a few years older, so were the Averitt-Manthey-Bridge Families, the Gentry’s, the Grammer’s, the Coleman’s, the Coon’s, the Madison’s, and the Nick’s. In addition, two of my grandchildren were there to vote; Lucy, the same age as Sophie, and Jake, a few years older. Victor Schrider was about a year or two older than Sophie and the two of them were standing in the room looming large over the preschoolers. Dana pointed out that they were the same size as the 3 and 4 year olds sitting cross legged on the floor when today’s Pantry began. We brought in poster boards that backed up Dana’s story. Victor and Sophie were pictured on the large boards. So were their older brothers and sisters. So we took pictures to make a new board for all the new preschoolers and their older siblings who want to help feed hungry children forever. They dove into the bag filling with great gusto, breaking the speed record held by the high schoolers. Yes!!!!! We are off to a wonderful new year filled with miracles, answered prayers, and obedience to Jesus’ command: Feed My Sheep!

Submitted by
Olivia Ellis
**Nativity Stable**

Back in 2009 I was asked to build a stable as part of a Crèche to be displayed in the narthex during the advent season. Bonnie has been shopping on eBay for most of the year purchasing the various figurines to complete the set. Walt and Sue Nichols have a stable with the exact dimensions we were looking for and were willing to let me use it as a model.

In selecting the wood, I remembered hearing Buddy Martin say he had some old American chestnut wood from the Proffitt Chapel that he and Jim had taken down several years ago. Buddy thought it would be fitting since the chapel was a part of Rockfish’s history. He found about 6 boards that were weathered and perfect for our needs. It was a fun project re-sawing the wood and a joy to find a use while the boards were still usable.

In Esther M. Coleman’s history of Rockfish Presbyterian Church, she listed six members at Proffitt’s chapel in 1917 and writes the following on page 49 of her book.

“The expansion at Rockfish Church began before 1920 when a small one room frame structure, Proffitt’s Chapel, was erected by the side of the “Old Howardsville Turnpike”. Services were held on a regular basis through 1939. Generally, these services were held on Sunday afternoon with good attendance. Many individuals were received into the membership of the church through this tiny chapel. In addition to serving as a chapel, this building was also used by the county of Nelson as a public school for a number of years.”

Jane Elliott furnished a picture and brief write up about the chapel that appeared in the Nelson County Virginia Heritage. A few quotes from the article by Rae Wilson are as follows. “James Ammons was the young minister who led the services after conducting the services at Rockfish Presbyterian Church. My mother said a large part of her religious knowledge was obtained in this little chapel and remembers receiving a copy of the New Testament for learning the Catechism.”

I really appreciate the help from those listed above who assisted and inspired me to complete this project. This coming advent season I hope you will feel the spirit of the past from Proffitt’s Chapel when you stop by the Crèche.

*Arlie Saunders,*
*Carpenter Extraordinaire*
This Christmas Give the Gift of Music
Hand Chimes for Rockfish: A Musical Investment

Welcome to our Rockfish Presbyterian Church Hand-Chime Campaign
Become a ‘Give-A-Chime’ donor and sponsor a hand-chime in honor/mem-ory of a special person in your life.

LEVELS OF GIVING

These instruments have various costs depending on the size of the chime. For a gift of $50.00, $75.00, or $100.00, you can donate a chime in memory/honor of someone special to you and your family. To meet our goal of $3,345.00, we need to following gifts

15 Gifts at $50.00 = $750.00
15 Gifts at $75.00 = $1,125.00
15 Gifts at $100.00 = $1,500.00

Case Inscription
Each gift will be honored with a name plate that contains up to three lines of 30 characters. These plates will be mounted on the outside of the hand-chime cases. In addition, a plaque with both hon-oree and donor will be displayed in Rockfish Presbyterian Church.

In honor of my parents
Hiram L. and Bettie K. Burch
Given by Dr. Cynthia B. Ramsey

MAKE A PLEDGE TODAY

Complete the pledge card located on the back of each pew. Attached your payment and place in the offering plate on or before Sunday December 11, 2022. Make your check payable to Rockfish Presbyterian Church. Be sure to indicate this gift is part of the Give-a-Chime campaign.

Your investment in this unique project will allow Rockfish Presbyterian Church to acquire these instru-ments, thereby enhancing the mission of our church and music ministry. Thank you for your consideration. Contact me if you have any questions.

Blessings

Dr. Cynthia B. Ramsey
Minister of Music, Rockfish Presbyterian Church
ramsey.c@lynchburg.edu
SESSION HIGHLIGHTS 11/15/22

Moderator Rev. Inger Manchester called the Session Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Elder Kate Humphrey Chambers had devotions and opening prayer. Prayers were asked for Peggy Toms and her recovery from surgery and for all to remain flu and COVID free.

CLERK’S REPORT:
Approve minutes of Stated Meeting 10/20/22.

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE: Elder Mac Lumpkin presented a positive Stewardship Committee Report. He thanked all ministry team chairs for submitting budget requests for 2023 in a timely manner, and thanked all ministry teams who presented ‘Minutes for Stewardship’ at worship services during the recent Stewardship Season. Stewardship is cautiously optimistic that RPC will be able to fund the many exciting proposed programs and projects for 2023.

MINISTRY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS/MOTIONS:

- Elder Kate Humphrey Chambers (Worship Ministry Team) brought a motion to approve vacation days for Inger on both November 27, 2022 and January 15, 2023. Those two Sundays will be single services and supply pastors have been secured. Session approved this. The WMT approved an initiative regarding the purchase of chimes for the church. Session approved this.
- Elder Sophie Ogilvie (Youth Ministry Team) reported that the Youth will create first aid kits for refugees in Charlottesville and Richmond; that they are planning to take a shopping trip to buy toiletries for the clothing closet at the High School and a trip to the Unlocked Escape Room in Charlottesville. The Youth are continuing to fill the Children’s Food Pantry bags and have introduced the children to the project and the history of it.
- Elder Bill Iverson (Mission Ministry Team) reported (1) the presentation on October 27 at RVCC by Ms. Meena Abedi was well attended and resulted in articles in the Crozet Gazette and Nelson County Times (2) there are 30 families to deliver Thanksgiving boxes to and food purchases are well underway. Packing and delivery will happen on Saturday, November 19. (3) Wendy Culberson reported we will donate gifts for 60 children through the Care Bear Program at a cost of $50 to $60/child. She has written tags with individual gift items for each child and will start the program on November 13. The congregation may donate money or shop for each child, (4) Ann Mische has a subcommittee to conduct the Head Start Christmas Party on 4 December from 2 to 4 PM. They will appreciate gifts of Christmas cookies that do not contain nuts or peanut butter and (5) CEDEPCA will sponsor an adult Mission trip to Guatemala from 17 to 24 April 2023 for POJ and POP (Peaks) members. Flyers describing the trip are in the Narthex. Inger has expressed interest in participating and would use her education funds in her salary to cover most of the cost. The Committee voted to fund the additional $800 from budgeted funds if she decides to attend. Cheryl Borgman and others who have joined these trips encouraged participation.
- Elder Ken Engebretson (Facilities Management Team) reported a leaky shut-off valve in the ceiling above the children’s room across from the nursery necessitated replacing the valve AND the water faucet to which it was attached. The Boyer’s plumbing technician replaced it for us at a cost of $380. There was no significant damage to the ceiling tile. However, when all the cleaning and re-arranging of items in those children’s rooms took place, it revealed the extent of water penetration occurring in the foundation walls. Although it is not yet critical to mitigate the problem, it did reinforce the need for us to be setting aside “contingency” funds to address this issue in the next few years.
- Elder Susan Luscomb (Christian Ministry Team) reported that Children’s Sunday School began on Nov. 6, led by our new Childcare Director, Ashley Cornelius. With the classroom and nursery and their contents meticulously cleaned, new supplies in place and a full year-long curriculum ready to go, the children are first being given a chance to acclimate to Ashley and the new surroundings before beginning lessons. Adult Sunday School is concluding its study of world religions, and on Nov. 27th will begin “Light of the World,” an Advent study by Amy-Jill Levine, Professor of Biblical Studies at Vanderbilt University. Professor Levine has a particular interest in, and has written extensively about, Jesus, and offers new perspectives on the Advent stories. Kirk Night has shifted to Kirk Noon to continue the ‘Chosen’ series, now into Season 2. Those participating report that they find the series to be very meaningful and enlightening. Discussions have begun about other educational offerings and groups in 2023.

CELEBRATION AND GRATITUDE:
We give thanks for:
1. The many families joining us.
2. The huge success of the Fall Festival. A great time was had by all and $1,500 was raised for Hope’s Legacy.

Rev. Inger Manchester closed the meeting in prayer at 7:35 PM.

Next Stated Session Meeting: Tuesday, 12/20/22 at 7:00 PM, Fellowship Hall. Elder Mac Lumpkin will have Devotions and Opening Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Fulton, Clerk
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