Perhaps because I have been spending time in the Book of John I have been thinking a lot on the value of signs for God’s people. In John 4:48-48 Jesus tells His followers “Unless you people see signs and wonders you will never believe.” I wonder if that is true of us as well. Does God still act via the Holy Spirit in our time? Offering signs and miracles?

One of the wonderful things about being a pastor is I am privy to conversations that might make others uncomfortable—especially conversations about how God has acted in people’s lives. You all might be very surprised to hear how many stories ARE shared with me. (Which in fact build my faith up so that I can continue to preach and teach with great confidence)

I often wish we were a denomination that made testimonies the norm because I truly believe we need to hear each other’s stories. Even when those stories make us worry that people will think we are nuts or that we are making too much of a coincidence.

Speaking of coincidences, I also think God has a wonderful sense of humor. Back when I was at Fieldstone I was preaching weekly at a retirement home. It was a short service and the mother of one of my elders also lived there. One day we were finishing singing “Because He Lives” which the 6 people gathered together (in various stages of dementia) knew by heart. We finished but then miraculously music began to play the refrain out of nowhere—so we sang the refrain again together without missing a beat. I was astonished. I said to the director—the boom box began playing the tune right at the perfect moment! She said that is more than miraculous because it is not plugged in!

The elder after listening to me said—“are you kidding me? My mother’s phone rang and she didn’t even answer it?” Apparently her mother’s ring tone was…. Because He Lives… We laughed and laughed.

So yes,,, maybe not a miracle… but I still choose to think the Spirit was involved.

In the Book of John, miracles are often said to happen “for the glory of God”—even miracles that have their root in pain like the healing of the blind man (why allow the man to be blind at all?) or the healing of Lazarus (why allow him to die if only to make him alive again? And why can’t Jesus do that for my mom… or brother… or husband… or friend?)

Perhaps we are afraid to give God the Glory because we are afraid that people might think we think we are special or that it might hurt someone who did not receive the miracle? Or maybe it IS just a coincidence? I don’t have answers for you…

However, I chose to live in a world where I can see God working in everything. Where God is active and deserves the Glory. Join me in THAT world of faith—because it is a pretty glorious place! Let us all testify to God’s never ending work in our lives. BECAUSE HE LIVES… sing it with me!

Pastor Inger
Inger's Inklings

Cynthia and I are very excited to celebrate Easter for the first time at Rockfish and have been planning away! Easter reminds me of Christmas where we go barreling down the road with no thoughts of post holiday time. And then all of a sudden Summer arrives. What? Where did Winter go? Which is a good question as we hardly had one. (I did buy ski passes for the next season- ever optimistic) However we continue to truck along and I have already hung out my hummingbird feeder in anticipation of my first 2023 visitors. I am also looking forward to moving the 8am service back to the pavilion (with its new pathway!) and beginning the Wednesday night Chosen again. Plans also are underway to have a Rockfish Talent night- stay tuned. And more plans plans plans... so fun! Be sure to spread the Word about us and order a t-shirt. Rockfish is special! A Light In the Valley.

On a personal note-Lee and I also have a trip to Ireland planned for the end of August. We LOVE to travel! Someday I may be able to keep up with all of your adventures...

Who knows what else God has in store for us- Keeping my heart, my eyes and my mind open. Hope you do too...

In Christ's Love,

Inger

March Dinner at the Manchester's
Volunteering with International Neighbors

I have been volunteering with International Neighbors this winter and thought I would pass along information about volunteering with the organization. International Neighbors is based in Charlottesville and focuses on helping refugees feel supported in their new communities. There are many ways to become involved ranging from helping deliver groceries once a week to families who do not have transportation, to the food bank (Loaves and Fish), driving families to shop at a thrift store, helping facilitate medical appointments (imagine how complex our healthcare system is if you aren't familiar with it), transportation to appointments, practicing English with refugees learning (no teaching experience needed) or helping fill out forms for assistance. The organization is open to any talents or skills you might like to share. The best way to get involved is to join a Zoom training session which is offered monthly (future dates Thursday, April 20 from 9-10:30 am, Tuesday, May 16 from 6-7:30 pm or Thursday, June 15 from 9-10:30 am). To register email katie.thach@internationalneighbors.org. Informal monthly coffee hours are also a good way to connect with volunteer opportunities. The coffee hour is the last Wednesday of the month at the Wool Factory in Charlottesville at 10:00 a.m. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Dana Ogilvie or Jill Averitt to get more information.

Submitted by, Dana Ogilvie

Youth News

Thank you to everyone in the congregation that helped the youth and children in creating 20 first aid kits for refugee families in our local community. The kits were distributed to Meena (Afghan refugee who spoke at RVCC) and International Neighbors in Charlottesville. Also thank you to Mary Hopkins for supplying the delicious sticky buns!!

On Sunday, March 19, the children helped fill 75 snack bags for the children of Nelson County. The Newsome crew did an excellent job using an assembly line to efficiently fill the bags. Also, thanks to Sophie Ogilvie and Amelia McCulley for helping. We will fill the April bags on Sunday, April 16 during the 10:00 service.

On Easter Sunday, the youth will help hide Easter eggs. Let Dana Ogilvie know if you're available to help.

RPC is fortunate to have some very talented youth. Three of the youth appeared in the Nelson County High School production of Guys and Dolls. Thank you to everyone who came out to support the production. Nathan Manthey as Benny Southstreet, Sophie Ogilvie as Harry the Horse and Anna White a the Mission Ensemble.
Mission Team

The Mission team is purchasing food and will be packing boxes to feed 125 people for the Easter food drive.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS: Each month you receive two envelopes and four times a year you receive special offerings. Here is an explanation.

The Five Cents a Meal offering is collected the first Sunday of the month to help those who are hungry. The Emergency Relief Offering is collect the fourth Sunday of the month to help local Nelson County residents who requests help with food, utilities, medical bills, rent, or anything that is considered an unexpected hardship in a financially difficult time.

The special offerings are:

One Great Hour of Sharing, typically received Easter Sunday, helps our neighbors-in-need around the world. Your gift provides relief to those affected by natural disaster, provides food to the hungry, and helps to empower the poor and oppressed.

Pentecost Offering, typically received on Pentecost Sunday, is used to develop and support young people, including at-risk children. Forty percent is used in our community; the remaining 60 percent supports Young Adult Volunteers, Ministries for Youth, and other ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Peace and Global Witness Offering, typically received on World Communion Sunday, promotes the Peace of Christ and addresses systems of injustice across the world through this offering. Twenty-five percent is used in our community; the remaining 75 percent is shared between mid-councils like Presbytery of the James and the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence.

Christmas Joy Offering, typically received near Christmas, honors 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.

All offerings are reported in your annual statement from our excellent Treasurers!

Bill Iverson,
Mission Committee Chair

Help Wanted

Please spread the word that Rockfish Presbyterian is looking for a childcare person for Sundays from 9:30—11:30. The pay is 50 dollars per Sunday. This person will assist Marilyn Pace who is our volunteer extraordinaire Sunday School teacher. She is awesome but can not handle all the burden alone. Therefore, we are also looking for our members to sign up and volunteer every couple months. Please consider doing so! And many thanks to all who have been helping out already. We are so grateful for your help with the kids! And remember - we are building the next generation of Christians. So incredibly important. Arguably the most important job of the Church.
Rockfish Presbyterian Church Hand Chime Dedication in March
Summary: 52 donations totaled $4,500.00

- In memory of my parents Charles and Vivian Bell, given by Allison Bell
- In honor of our parents Elizabeth & George Bonheyo, given by George & Joan Bonheyo
- In memory of my grandparents Fritz and Dorothy Borgman, given by Cheryl Borgman
- In honor of my wife Kathryn Humphrey, given by Michael Chambers
- In honor of Alice Corder who loved chimes and our Lord, given by Lee & Paula Corder
- In honor of Jo Turner, given by Ron & Wendy Culberson
- In honor of our daughters who bring music to our lives, given by Ken & Jeri Engebretson
- In honor/memory of Catherine Allen & Alan Lane, given with love by her sister Mary Dudley Eggleston
- In honor of Sam Alexander, given by his family
- In honor of Megan, Gretchen, and Erin (Frahm), given by Greg & Carolyn Frahm
- In memory of Frances A. Fulton, given by Roger & Sue Fulton
- In memory of my parents Bill & Mignonne Slaughter, given by Valerie Goodrich
- In memory of my parents Harry & Jessie Goodrich, given by Lee Goodrich
- In honor of our organist Pat Humphrey, given by a grateful congregation
- In memory of my husband Ross D. Hasson, given by Gail Hasson
- In memory of Sarah R. Armstrong, given by Jamie & Bill Heard
- In memory of Rita H. Beitz, given by Jamie & Bill Heard
- In memory of Jane H. Heard, given by Jamie & Bill Heard
- In honor of my husband Grant Heggie, given by Patti Heggie
- In memory of Joan Hess, Our Nana who loved church music, given by Tim & Lynne Hess
- In memory of Perry A. Hopkins, given by David & Mary Hopkins
- In memory of Anneliese & John Tisdale, given by David & Mary Hopkins
- In honor of my husband Michael Chambers, given by Kathryn Humphrey
- In honor of my parents Tom & Joan Humphrey, given by Kathryn Humphrey
- In honor of Victoria Humphrey, given by Kathryn Humphrey
- In memory of loved ones, given by Pat Humphrey
- In honor of our daughter Sally Ann, given by Bill & Ann Iverson
- In memory of our nephew James R. Weitze, given by Ute and Brent Kitching
- In memory of my mother Eve-Ann E. Kristiansen, given by Kathy Kristiansen
- In honor of my grandchildren, given by Beverly Lacey
- In honor of our 8 grandchildren, given by Jeanne & Dave Lawson
- In honor of our parents Esther & Theodore Mack, given by George & Joan Mack
- To the glory of God and in memory of Sarah Armstrong given by Ann Mische
- In honor of Zoe, Erhan, & Sophie Ogilvie, given by Dana & Rob Ogilvie
- In honor of my parents Hiram and Bettie Burch, given by Dr. Cynthia B. Ramsey
- In honor of June B. Thomas, given by Michelle Richardson
- In memory of Eleanor G. Rockwell, given by Diana Rockwell & Peggy Toms
- In honor of our grandsons Rush, William, Charlie, & Phillip Newsome, given by Stacy & Carl Rush
- In memory of my beloved parents Mary Alice & Felton Moore, given by Mary Jo Russell
- In honor of Rita Colman and in memory of George T. Colman Jr., given by John & Phyllis Savides
- In memory of Jim & Katie Savides, given by John & Phyllis Savides
- In memory of Sarah R. Armstrong, given by Ginny & Al Simpson
- In memory of Sarah Armstrong, given by “Sisters of the Book”
- In memory of Ilse Steele, given by her husband Joe Steele
- In honor of Cordelia Underwood, Given by Connie Underwood
- In memory of Darius Copen, given by Sheri Underwood
- In memory of Arthur Underwood, Given by Tom Underwood
- In memory of our parents and children, given by Gene and Nan Varnadoe
- In honor of Joan Staiko, bell ringer extraordinaire, given by Bronwyn White
- In honor of the best grandparents, Rick & Dottie Winter. Given by Lila, Graham, & Reid
- In honor of our nephew Jeremy M. Woodhams, given by Rick & Dottie Winter
- To God be the Glory! given by Jim & Sally Wright
Spring grounds cleanup, 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 5th. Please bring rakes, tarps, leaf blowers, etc. Should not take more than 2 hours.

NELSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 6, 2023

9 AM—1 PM

Rockfish Valley Community Center

Choose from a host of plants, including:

Natives: lance leaf coreopsis, foxglove beardtongue, butterfly weed, meadow phlox

Bedding plants: begonias, impatiens, salvia, verbena, vinca, zinnias, and many more!

Vegetables: heirloom tomatoes, peppers, cabbage, broccoli, and others

Herbs: basil, cilantro, lavender, and more

Perennials | Bushes | Trees

This will be the Nelson County Master Gardeners’ only fundraiser this year. Proceeds from the sale support the many horticulture projects we sponsor across the county.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Nelson County Extension office at (434) 263-7108 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.

Great turnout to the Fly-fishing Class
SPREADING THE WORD

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS 3/21/2023

Moderator Rev. Inger Manchester called the Session Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with prayer. Elder Sandy Gallagher had devotions and prayer. Prayers were asked for Sue Nichols and Charlie and Carol Kingsley.

Harris Luscomb transferred his Affiliate membership to Active, which Session approved. Connie Underwood shared her faith journey and was welcomed into Active membership by Session. The right hand of fellowship was virtually presented to both and they were be presented to the Congregation on March 26.

CLERK'S REPORT:
Approved minutes of Stated Meeting 2/21/2023.

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE: Elder Mac Lumpkin presented a positive Stewardship Committee Report. Roger Fulton sent a resolution to add Wendy Culberson as an approved signatory for the RPC checking account, which Session approved. Mac also reported that the insurance policy for the Church has been updated to include both RPC and RPC, Inc. and it will be renewed April 8.

NEW BUSINESS:
- Elder Lee Goodrich brought a proposal to change the time of the annual RPC, Inc. meeting to match the rotation of Ruling Elders. The meeting will now be at the time and date of the first Session meeting following each election of new Session members by the congregation of RPC. The Board of Directors of the Corporation (Session) approved this.
- Elder Mac Lumpkin presented the 2023 Nominating Committee made up of Mac, Chair; Ken Engebretson, Co-Chair; Jamie Heard, Jeanne Lawson, and Connie Underwood. Session approved this.

MINISTRY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS/MOTIONS:
- Elder Kate Humphrey Chambers, Liaison (Worship Ministry Team). Mary Hopkins, Chair, reported on the dedication of the hand chimes, the Easter hydrangeas and supply pastors. Rev. Inger Manchester brought two motions, one for Inger to baptize her granddaughter, Ava, on July 2 and one for Rev. Carl Rush, a Methodist Minister, to baptize his two grandsons, Philip and Charlie, at a service TBD, both at RPC. Session approved these motions.
- Susan Luscomb (Christian Education Ministry Team) reported the Children's Sunday School, the Adult Sunday School, and the weekly Bible study led by Inger are all going well. Kirk night will resume May 3 for attendants to watch and discuss “The Chosen.” Leslie Buchanan will begin a book group in early May.
- Elder Mike Smythers (Grounds Ministry Team) reported that there will be a Spring Cleanup of the Grounds on April 5, that grass cutting will start again in early April and that the bushes outside of the door to the office will be replaced, and the faucet under the Pavilion will be replaced at a cost of ~$500, which Session approved.
- Elder Sandy Gallagher (Outreach Ministry Team) reported that RPC tentatively will have a Spring Hobby/Talent Show under the Pavilion on June 17, details to follow.
- Elder Sally Bryant (Personnel Ministry Team) reported that RPC is actively seeking a paid childcare director to help Marilyn Pace with the children on Sunday mornings.
- Elder Bill Iverson (Mission Ministry Team) reported that Easter baskets this year will feed 125 people total.

We give thanks for:
- The dogs that had been lost were found. (Inger)
- Sue Nichols is feeling better and is home. (Inger)
- Elder Sophie Ogilvie’s play was a huge success, truly “charming and a half.” (all)
- Rev. Inger Manchester has agreed to serve on a Presbytery Committee that will reimagine what our Presbytery should look like. (Inger)

Rev. Inger Manchester closed the meeting in prayer at 7:44 PM.

Next Stated Session Meeting: Tuesday, 4/18/23 at 7:00 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. Elder Sally Bryant will have Devotions and Opening Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Fulton, Clerk
# April 2023

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| 8:00 a.m. Worship Service  
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
FIVE CENTS A MEAL OFFERING | 2:30 Personnel Committee Meeting | 9:00 a.m. Grounds Cleanup  
10:00 Knitting and Nurture  
11:30 Scripture Discussion | Noon—Men’s Group Lunch  
3:30 Rockfish Ringers  
4:00 Worship Committee  
5:30 Rockfish Children’s Community Choir  
6:00 Maundy Thursday Service  
6:30 Chancer Choir | **6:00 Good Friday Service** | **8** | |
| **9** | **10** | **11** | **12** | **13** | **14** | **15** |
| 6:45 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service  
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. Easter Service  
11:00 a.m. Brunch in the Fellowship Hall | 5:00 Stewardship Meeting | 7:00 Christian Education Meeting | 10:00 Knitting and Nurture  
11:30 Scripture Discussion | 10:00 Walking Fun  
Noon—Men’s Group Lunch  
3:30 Rockfish Ringers  
5:30 Rockfish Children’s Community Choir  
6:30 Chancer Choir | **10:00 Walking Fun**  
**Noon—Men’s Group Lunch**  
**3:30 Rockfish Ringers**  
**5:30 Rockfish Children’s Community Choir**  
**6:30 Chancer Choir** | **15** |
| **16** | **17** | **18** | **19** | **20** | **21** | **22** |
| 8:00 a.m. Worship Service  
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. Pack Pantry Bags for Kids  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
5:00 Pub Theology at Brewing Tree | 7:00 Session Meeting | 10:00 Knitting and Nurture  
11:30 Scripture Discussion | **9:30 a.m. Outreach Meeting**  
10:00 Walking Fun  
Noon—Men’s Group Lunch  
3:30 Rockfish Ringers  
5:30 Rockfish Children’s Community Choir  
6:30 Chancer Choir | | **21** | **22** |
| **23** | **24** | **25** | **26** | **27** | **28** | **29** |
| 8:00 a.m. Worship Service  
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
EMERGENCY RELIEF OFFERING | **SPREADING THE WORD ARTICLES DUE** | | | | **Pantry Bag Packing** | **9:00 a.m. Distribution at Food Pantry** |