

The Beacon



Men's Conference

Men, register today to participate in the Men's Conference and Mountain Man Skills Contest on August 8 at 7:30AM.



CPT and AWANA Training

If you are due for Child Protection Training or you are volunteering for AWANA, attend this training on August 19 at 6:00PM.



Worship Schedule

Wednesdays

6:30PM Adult Bible Study
6:30PM Worship Choir Rehearsal
7:30PM Worship Team Rehearsal

Sundays

9:00AM Worship Service
9:00AM Sunday School
10:30AM Worship Service
10:30AM Sunday School
6:30PM Youth Group

Bible Studies and Activities are scheduled throughout the week.

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Greetings,

Well, I've turned around about two times lately and have just realized that summer is almost over. What's up with that? I guess the old adage applies here as it says, "time flies when you're having fun." We are already talking about the upcoming new church year as AWANA and HomeSchool ministries will be starting back by the time I turn around again. And, there are only 18 Thursdays until Thanksgiving and, get this now, 23 Fridays until Christmas. So, you better prepare to get that turkey before they sell out and start planning your Christmas shopping. I pray that this information doesn't ramp up your stress level as you realize how far behind in preparation you already are. We need to remember though why we celebrate these upcoming events as they are not made to be stressful but to bring us to thankfulness and rejoicing. As citizens, we have freedom and as believers we have salvation (Jesus). And in these two things we also realize that they bring us to a decision. Will we rejoice in that freedom and will we make the decision to receive the gift that Jesus presented to us.



Jesus was the greatest preacher of all times and in His preaching He always called for a decision. He preached, He listened to the requests of the people, He healed the sick, He ministered to the poor, He raised the dead, and He always asked for a decision. Through His preaching, He wanted us to learn some things. He wanted us to know what life as a true Christian was all about. How different His Father's kingdom is from the kingdoms of the world. There is a big difference between the Father's values and the values of society. Remember some of those value distinctions? Jesus said, the world values power but My Father values gentleness and tenderness and honesty. The world values those who are self-made and self-sufficient but My Father values those who are poor in spirit and humble in heart. The world looks at the externals but My Father looks right at the heart. The world says, you've got to please the crowd but My Father advocates love and purity and truth telling. The world says stack up earthly treasures, who gives a rip about the after-life, if there really is one, but My Father says lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where they can be enjoyed and celebrated forever. The world says do unto others before they do it to you, but My Father says treat others the way you wish they would treat you.

Throughout His entire ministry, Jesus has been saying, "Here's some things I want you to understand and now that He's coming to the end of His time (sermon), He's saying, here's the decision I want you to make. Here's what I want you to do - "enter the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction and many are those who enter in. But the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life and few are those who find it." If you want to end up in heaven forever, the only way in is to enter through the narrow gate. And they knew exactly what He meant and it gave them a first century exceldrin headache because Jesus was saying, here, as He had said before and what He would say later, that there's only one way to God and He's it. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." In John 10:9 Jesus says, "I am the door. If anyone enters through Me, he or she will be saved." Acts 4:12 says, "Neither is there salvation in any other. There's no other name under heaven given among men

whereby a person can be saved." 1 Timothy 2:5 says, "There is one mediator between God and man. That is the person of Jesus Christ."

If things start to get a little bored around some of your upcoming holiday events with family and friends and you want to blow the lid off of that boring get together, just when the conversation starts to fizzle out, announce casually to everyone at the table that even though there are about a billion Muslims living today, about 700 million Hindus, about 300 million Buddhists, about 240 million professing atheists, and who knows how many there are who proclaim that they're really good people' just announce to everyone at your table that no one, not even a single one of them, will ever spend a day of their eternity in heaven unless they repent of their sins and accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. They have to commit their lives to Him without reservation. Just do that and it will change your celebration pretty quickly and who knows, your message might just lead someone to accept Jesus and receive the greatest gift they'll ever receive. I'm praying for all as we quickly approach the busiest months of the year remembering why we celebrate.

Dr. Richard Harrell

Deacons of the Week

August 2

Kerry Knowles (540) 834-6631
Flavius Lungoccia (540) 840-5689

August 9

Randy Colson (703) 864-9058
Sean Springer (571) 697-9309

August 16

Heath Hunter (912) 596-8294
Bob Peoples (540) 226-7083

August 23

Jeff Johnson (540) 836-7535
Chris Turman (540) 272-1914

August 30

Nate Ewoldt (540) 273-5549
Chris Hudson (703) 350-1934

The Prodigal Pastor

In Luke 15 we read of the prodigal son, who out of selfish desire took his inheritance and wasted it until he had nothing. He left his own country and abandoned his faith so he could be free of his commitments, his family, and his God. But there are other reasons people leave family and faith behind. It could be the pain of the loss of a loved one. It could be an intense jealousy of another. It could be a desire to be free from any person or anything that controls us. We may be running from family, or we may be running from God.

Charles Beecher was a prodigal son who lived in the 1800s. At the age of twenty-two, he ran from his family and the strict Calvinistic Christianity preached by his father, Lyman Beecher. Lyman was one of the giants of the Second Great Revival and he wanted Charles to be a preacher, but Charles wanted to spend time writing, playing, and teaching music. He didn't feel the call to preach, and Lyman and Charles often argued. Their arguments finally came to a head when they were arguing over Jonathan Edwards' Freedom of the Will. Edwards, like Lyman Beecher were strict Calvinist preachers, and when Charles took the opposite side of the argument, Arminian, Charles decided it was time to leave.

Charles left Cincinnati on a steamboat headed for New Orleans. He ran away from Ohio, his family, and his staunch father. He started playing organ for a church in New Orleans and writing songs of faith like Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.

He was working out his own faith. In a way, trying to find his own way. While in the south, Charles saw the plantations of Louisiana. He saw the beauty of the large fields and inhumanity of slavery. He had never witnessed something so beautiful and so horrifying. He relayed what he had learned to his sister Harriet Beecher Stowe and his information became invaluable to her book, Uncle Tom's Cabin.[1]

Charles continued to struggle with his faith and his family, but it was the softening of his father's tone that brought Charles home. Lyman was a strict old-school preacher and university president who didn't usually warm to a considerate approach to others as a way to bring someone to Jesus. When he lost his son, Lyman was able to see how holding a hard line can sometimes end up losing the battle for a lost soul. Lyman wrote a letter to Charles and said, "Oh, my dear Charles—the last child of my angel wife, your blessed mother—you can never know the place you fill in your father's heart, and the daily solicitude and prayers of his soul for your protection and restoration to equanimity, satisfaction, and joy of heart in communion with God." As Lyman assured his son that he would always be loved by his father and his God, a new countenance came over Charles. This is not to say they always agreed but they could agree about the saving grace of Jesus.

The prodigal son of Luke 15 ran away to waste his fortune on the things of this world. Charles Beecher ran from a hard father and a hard faith. Both father and son in the end, realized that Jesus, not the system of theology, was the most important thing. To love Jesus, and to serve Him, and to give Him your all by accepting Him as Savior, is central to Christianity. There can be no substitutions here.

As we grow towards God and mature in our faith, we desire to worship Him. When He brings us comfort and peace in times of trouble, we give our thanks and love to Him. To love Jesus opens our heart to Him and He fills us with His Spirit. The result of the Holy Spirit walking with us, and in us, is worship. The result of worship is a new person with new gifts of the Spirit.

Perhaps you have been running. You can run without going anywhere. You don't need to go to New Orleans. You simply stop listening to God. You close Him out. If you have been running, you can stop anytime. Here's what you will find. God loves you. He wants you to be His. Love His Son. Be His Child. Want to talk? I'm available anytime. Call me. The number is on the back page.

God bless,

Pastor Chuck Hite

[1] Lyman Beecher's Prodigal Son: The Story of a Runaway Who Came Home

A little history on Prime Timers celebrating 40 years:

Pastor Dempsey started Prime Timers Ministry in 1986.

Evelyn Bryant was the first President/director. Ed Rodgers was instrumental in planning the ministry driving the van.

Other officers were Nancy Bryant, Rachel Rogers, Margie Buttgens. Also there were several others instrumental in starting this ministry who are still with us on the committee or still attending the monthly meetings.

What a great ministry that began in 1986 (40 years) and is still blessing many today. Let us continue to uphold and support this wonderful Ramoth that has blessed so many over the last forty years.

Here is just a little of what we continue to do:

We continue to take food to the shut-in's. We are also continuing trips for our senior outings. We recognize monthly birthdays. We have a calling tree as a reminder of our monthly meetings. We hold a three day Spring Revival each year, and we are continuing to remember our Precious Memories program (our saints who have passed on).

I consider myself privileged to be a part of Prime Timers that have been in existence for 40 years.. I encourage you to come out and support this great ministry. You will be blessed.

Our August guest speaker is pastor Paige Bowman, (a great speaker) you don't want to miss. Our Luncheon featuring Baked Potato Bar, and all the fixings. Potato Bar/salad supplied by Prime Timers. come and bring a friend and your special side dish or dessert. If you have questions on what to bring, call Margaret (540) 845-4222. Below is a copy of our August meeting.

Prime Timers' Luncheon

August 20, 2026

Theme:
Love Lifted Me

Menu:
Baked Potatoes, Fixings, and Salad
Please Bring Sides and/or Desserts

Host/Hostess:
Virginia Armstrong and Helen Young

Decorator:
Tammy Snyder

Guest Speaker/Testimony:
Pastor Paige Bowman
Singing Every Month



But you, Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, the one who lifts my head high

Psalms 3:3



I HOPE YOU FIND REST IN THIS TRUTH

Jesus didn't die for a perfect version of you. He died for the real you – the one who makes mistakes, who falls short, who runs away and struggles to come back. He died for the messy, broken, rock-bottom version of you.

He Saw every failure, every hidden battle, every moment you would feel unworthy... and still chose the cross.

Not a future, fixed version of you. Not a cleaned-up, put-together version. You.

And in the middle of all your imperfections, He looked at you and said, "I want that one."

That's the kind of love that doesn't wait for you to be better – it meets you where you are, and gently leads you into who you're becoming.

~The Worshipper

Give thanks in all circumstances: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.

Psalms 107:1

I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

Psalms 9:1

I will give to the Lord the thanks due to His righteousness, and I will SING praise to the name of the Lord, the Most High.

Psalms 7:17

In His Service,

Margaret Canter

Brothers and sisters, in Christ, we once again have the distinct honor and privilege to share a few words with you. Over the years the RMC article has focused on sharing with you the things that are going on through our efforts. At times we have encouraged you to get involved in our outreach programs or to even pray for those who are already serving in those areas. And still, at other times we have shared a word of upliftment and reminded you for God's provision and promises.

This month's article is going to be a little different. We want to ask you, "What would you like to hear from us?" What things are you concerned about, that we might be able to address. Is there a specific topic that we could do a teaching/equipping series on? Are there social constructs that you are concerned that you or your family are dealing with that you could use some godly counsel over? Is there a biblical concept, related to counseling, that you are struggling with or need clarification on?

Here is the perfect time and opportunity for you to present us with things that you would like to read about in our monthly articles. We want the Beacon articles to be reflective of the thoughts, concerns, and issues that the church wants to know about. We would like nothing more than for us to help source answers for you, using the resources and understanding that we have from our years of training, education, and experience.

So here is how we are going to do things over the next several months. We are going to engage with those that engage with us. We will take email questions, concerns, or inquiries and address them in by way of the Beacon article. The areas and things that we will address need to align with the services and support that are offered through the RMC. We will offer a few suggestions from which to choose from or that you can use as your baseline for engaging us. Our hope is that by interacting this way with the church, we can provide more thoughtful insight and assistance to those who want it. As an added bonus we get to see who is taking the time to read our articles and who are giving us their support.

Suggested topics for us to cover might include any of the following: How to improve communication between you and others in your life. Common things to consider when making important decisions. What to do with hurts from your past. Ways to agree and disagree with losing relationships. How best to engage problems in our homes, at work, in the church, or around our community. Or things can be addressed in the areas of outreach that we support. How people can get more involved. Why and how do our outreach efforts help people, their families, and their situation. Any of these would be great for us to discuss, but we want your help in choosing what topics and to what extent you want to hear about them.

So, we will be looking forward to your input in the coming weeks. Please send those thoughts and considerations to counseling@rbcstafford.org with the subject line: Beacon Article. Thank you for taking the time to read our article this month and thanks for the pending suggestions. As always, we are here for you and anyone that you might know, who is in need of help, hope, and healing. We are available Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to noon. We can be reached at 540-602-7986 and via email at counseling@rbcstafford.org or counseling2@rbcstafford.org. God bless and be well...

Your Brother in Christ,

Sergio "Woody" Wooden



GriefShare is an ongoing grief recovery support group where you can find help and healing for the loss of a loved one. The group meets every Monday at 10:00AM and 6:30PM in Room 307. For more information contact:

Sergio "Woody" Wooden:
counseling@rbcstafford.org

Food Pantry

Want to volunteer in the church food pantry and make a difference in our community?

There are multiple days/times to help:

Monday: Shopping/Box Prep

Tuesday: Pantry 8:30AM-10:00AM

Fridays: Donation Pickup/Sorting

Saturday/Sunday: Donation Pickup

In The Wildflowers

Survivors of Sexual Abuse Support Group: This is a 10 week DVD driven series for women only, presented by the American Association of Christian Counselors. Contact Elena Johnson and Stephanie Wheeler for more information.

Women Overcoming Depression

Perhaps you have felt down, lethargic, or out of sorts for a few weeks, or maybe this heaviness has smothered you for months...even years.

THINGS ARE NOT HOPELESS...YOU ARE NOT HELPLESS...YOU ARE NOT WORTHLESS. If you feel you are experiencing defeat in any area of your life, you are welcome to join this group of overcomers as we meet every 2nd and 4th Tuesday. For more information, or to sign up for this group, please contact Pattie Foster at pattiecakes84@comcast.net

Women Overcoming Depression will be taking a Summer Break starting in June through August.

September 8th and 22nd at 1:00PM in Rm 306.

A Place of Hope, Help, and Healing



SEPT. 19, 2026
9 AM

2ND ANNUAL
MARRIAGE
CONFERENCE

Register by Aug. 30th
Meal provided
Childcare available



Sponsored by:



Dear Ramoth Family,

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, Aug 2nd (next one Sept 6th): Hat Sunday

Every first Sunday of the month is hat Sunday, and all ladies who want to participate are encouraged to wear a hat to church. Any questions just ask, but it's that simple, you just need to wear a hat!

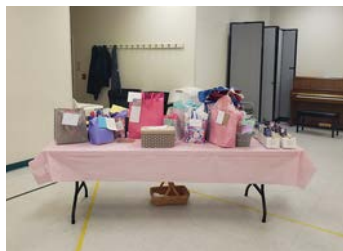


Wednesday, August 5th: RBC Kitchen Clean-Up Day

Location- RBC Kitchen

Time: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Come help us before the start of AWANA to clean the kitchen to prepare for fall ministry to start back! We'll provide your dinner and time of fellowship after the cleaning ends. Sign up in the foyer.



Sunday, Aug. 7th Fredericksburg Nationals Game – Church-Wide Invite!

Location- Fredericksburg Stadium

Sign-ups and more info coming soon from Pastor Ben!

Sat, Aug 8th Men's Conference-Volunteers Needed

Location: RBC

Time: 7:15am-3:00pm

Women's Ministry is supporting the Men's Conference by providing support at registration starting at 7:15am, serving/cleaning up lunch at 11:30am and scoring events for their games at 1:00pm. Please sign up in the foyer.



Sat, Aug 8th FIT Workshops – Fiber & Fellowship & Creating Cards

Location: RBC

Time: 10:00am-12:00pm

Fiber & Fellowship Leader: Sarah Fraley (natasha25461@gmail.com)

The Knitting and Crochet group offers fiber and fellowship as we use our talents for the good of our church and our community. Each season we will tackle a new project for ministry. Join us as we continue to create baby items for IMGNLife, washcloths and adult hats for the homeless, and hats for backpacks for Appalachia. If you are new to knitting and crochet please join us and you will be taught starting on an easy project. Everyone at all levels is welcome! Any questions, please contact Sarah Fraley.

Creating Cards Leader: Kelley Skowronek (pkskow4@msn.com)

Share the Word and encourage others with homemade cards! During the classes, you will be provided with the materials to make at least 6 cards -with a variety of occasion sentiments. Making cards and crafting should be fun and not stressful! Come and share in good company and leave with a variety of cards ready to sign and mail. All supplies (paper, adhesive, stamps, ink, and envelopes) will be provided. If you are interested in doing more cards at home, there will be card kits available to purchase & take with you as you leave. Bless someone through the mail! 😊



Tuesday's, Aug 11th; 18th; 25st: Prayer Group

Location: RBC Prayer Room (located in the Sanctuary to the Left of the stage)

Time: 6:30pm

Join with other women for a weekly prayer group to pray for your family, church, and country! Contact Lidia Lungoccia for more info (540-840-5729).

Save the Date!

Tuesday, October. 13th Sight & Sound Theater Trip (3pm showing)

Location- 300 Hartman Bridge Rd, Ronks, PA 17572

Sign-ups and more info coming soon! Rooms are reserved at the Eden Resort, Lancaster, PA for the night of October 13th.

Needs and Thank You's!

We want to thank each and every one of you who donated to our 2026 IMGNLife Baby Bottle Campaign! **As a church family we raised \$5,016.03 for the pregnancy center!** Thank you for your heart for those facing unplanned pregnancy, and giving them the opportunity to choose LIFE! If you would like to donate diapers, wipes or formula to the center, those are always welcome as well. If you would like to learn more about the center or volunteer there, please let us know.



Needs:

We are always looking for others to share their talents with our Women's Ministry, church and community. If you have a talent to share, an idea for an event/F.I.T. Workshop, would like to submit an article for one of our monthly Beacons or would like to help coordinate/lead any events please reach out to the Women's Ministry. Any and all ideas are welcome!

Looking for Women's Bible Study leader (s) for the fall/winter.

Pachess Wooden and Denise Johnson

If you are interested in helping with any of these upcoming events, please reach out to Denise Johnson or Pachess Wooden. Their contact information is below:

Pachess Wooden
(207) 632-7334
pachessu@yahoo.com

Denise Johnson
(703) 283-5957
d09johnson@gmail.com



1. 3rd Annual Men's Conference and Mountainman Skills Challenge - 08 August 26. Join us this year for the Ramoth Men's Conference and the manly challenges that follow. The theme this year is from **2 Tim 4:2-5**—*Be Ready In Season and Out Of Season*. This conference and those participating in the challenges has grown in size each year. Dad's & sons, young men, youth and seasoned men will be tested with 10 challenging events. Families and friends, please come join us in the afternoon to watch and cheer on your favorites in events like axe throwing, knife throwing, bow & arrow, slingshot, javelin, hay bale toss, and, **yes**, the infamous toilet seat toss.

2. Rome - 67 AD. What was it like when Paul was in Prison awaiting his martyrdom and writing His epistle to Timothy?? Nero was Emperor. While Nero probably set the Great Fire of Rome of 64 AD for his own purposes, Christians were a small, unpopular minority group easily used as a scapegoat. Many faced extreme, public violence. Many more were arrested. First, those who confessed their faith. Then, many more turned in by others. Punishments include being killed by wild beasts, being crucified - in some cases being burned to illuminate Nero's public spectacle often described as "human torches". This is the atmosphere Paul was writing to Timothy. Despite the risks, Christians continued meeting in private homes to worship & fellowship. Gatherings were crucial for maintaining their faith and community ties. They relied on each other for support spiritually and materially. They shared resources and encouraged one another in their faith. These needs of these early Christians are underlying reasons for Paul's writing to encourage Timothy to prepare them, proclaim the gospel and have patience for the results.

Men's Ministry: If you'd like to get involved, join the fun & fellowship. Contact the church office for more info. Rod Montgomery @ (540) 623-7651 e-mail at SitNChip@gmail.com

7AM Saturday Study

Fellowship Hall - Rod Montgomery

Integritas Weekly Men's Bible Study & Prayer is focused on many aspects of the Bible undergirding Christian foundations & heritage for family, church & country, as well as our need for obedience to it.

Come enjoy some breakfast with us, too.

Read & Study His Love Story to you—the Bible.

August 2026—**Isaiah 40-66** Continuing the study of Isaiah, we'll see four major themes:

1) It acts like a miniature Bible, 2) A rebellious heart reaps God's Judgement, 3) The vision of God's mercy and restoration, 4) It reveals the Messiah, Jesus. All of these will lead us to the Millenium and The Kingdom.



Iron Sharpens Iron

7:00PM - 3rd - August 2026

Kerry Knowles

Join with men of Iron Sharpens Iron as we study I John. We meet the first Monday of the month.

Join for fellowship and Biblical studies.

Every Man a Warrior

Sunday 5:30PM - Led by Heath Hunter, many men are finding this is to be an exciting new discipleship study. This Bible study gives men the tools to sharpen their spiritual battle skills. *Dropping a teen off for church activities?* - It's a perfect time to join the study while you wait.

There are new study groups developing. Why not see if you might be able to fit in one of them.

For more information, contact the church office or

Heath Hunter (912) 596-8294
phillipphunter38@gmail.com

Tim Eicher (540) 907-1545
teicher93@gmail.com

Flavius Lungoccia (540) 840-5689
fllungoccia@gmail.com

Ramoth Men's Conference – Be Ready. In Season and Out of Season.

Encouragement from the words of Paul to Timothy in 2 Tim 4:2-5.

Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and exhort, with great patience & instruction. For the time will come when they will not tolerate sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance with their own desires, and they will turn their ears away from the truth and will turn aside to myths. But as for you, use self-restraint in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. **2 Timothy 4:2-5**

About the time of 67 AD, Paul was writing these words of encouragement to Timothy from a dark Roman prison cell, just before Paul's death, while Christians were facing severe persecution under Emperor Nero. Nero had already blamed the Christians for the Great Fire of 64 AD. Now, Paul sits condemned in a prison cell awaiting the martyrdom he knows awaits him. Yet, he doesn't waver. He continues to write in love and in dedication to the Gospel as a mentor to Timothy. While Paul was suffering in prison, he was thinking of others, the need for the Gospel to be shared. He did not dwell on his circumstances. Paul wanted Timothy to understand the importance of preaching the word of God and being prepared to do so at all times, in all places, to all peoples. This will require a constant vigilance and commitment to Timothy's duties as an overseer – what we would call a pastor. Paul provides us with an approach to teaching and identifies some possible challenges. He instructs his young disciple to correct, rebuke, and encourage others with patience and careful teaching. This verse acts as a warning for a time when people will not endure sound teaching. Much like today's secular culture that favors comfort over truth, self over sacrifice, and immediate gratification over delayed satisfaction. Instead, they will seek out teachers who tell them what they want to hear, leading them away from the truth into an easy religiosity that disputes Biblical principles. The passage encourages believers to remain steady, endure hardships, and fulfill their ministry, despite the challenges they may face.

How do we do this? Paul pretty much gives us the approach in **verse 2** for this Scripture.

Prepare: Reading, studying and listening to the principles of Scripture. Bank tellers handle real money to learn what is true so they can recognize a counterfeit. We need to do the same. We need to study truth so that we know when we hear or receive from those who would deceive. This is a continuing action. Not an occasional dip into the Word. We should be prepared to share the good news of Jesus Christ in a clear and understandable way.

Proclaim: This can be a hard one. We want approval of those around us. But isn't it more important to bring someone to salvation? God works through His Holy Spirit to do the work. We are merely responsible for reaching out to those around us. The Spirit will urge us and He will do the work. We just need to speak up and share what we can, where we can, when we can. You'll be surprised how many times you get a positive response. To be effective in spreading the gospel, we must take every opportunity to proclaim the message at all times – even the scary times! God will use it. While you plant, someone else may see the harvest. Eternity will tell the story of your witness.

Patience: All of us want to see immediate results. But, it's been said that most times a person has to hear the Gospel at least 7 times before they will respond to it. We can effectively reach others with the message of salvation by being persistent and consistent in our witness as we take a patient and gentle approach, correcting and rebuking with love and humility. We're not out to win arguments or to prove ourselves right. We are to share the gospel and to lead others to faith in Christ. Along with the Word, our demonstrating patience, kindness, and humility will lead others to Christ.

On Missions for God...

Blessings, brothers and sisters. It is praise report time. While there will be great details in the coming weeks. We are happy to have our mission team back from El Salvador. Everyone made it back safe and sound. They were in great spirits and have had plenty to say about the people they met, the things they did, and the impression that was made on them, by being a part of what God is doing in El Salvador. In a couple of weeks there will be a brief testimony about the trip and all that took place. So, please stay tuned for that.

As we transition from the international mission field, let us turn our attention to the other fields that need laborers. There has already been an announcement made about needing volunteers to the AWANA program at our church. AWANA exposes children of all ages to the Bible and challenges them to memorize verses, help others through mission projects, and shows them how wonderful and powerful the Christian community can be for everyone. Some volunteers are needed to help children review their memory verses each week. Other volunteers are needed to be group leaders, interacting with the children and their parents on a weekly basis. And still other volunteers help with games, the check-in and check-out process, and providing safety throughout the church while AWANA is taking place. If you think that you could fill any of these volunteer roles, please let either Jenny Forrester or Tammy Snyder know of your desire to help.

If you are not able to assist with AWANA on Wednesday nights but still have a heart to see children grow in their spiritual development, then I have a great mission field for you. It is called Good News Club, and it is an effort by the Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF). Good News Clubs takes the gospel message to public elementary school around the world, even right here in Stafford County. Through the years Ramoth Baptist Church has had the honor and privilege of hosting in as many as five different schools at any give time. Clubs usually meet immediately following the end of the school day and last between sixty and ninety minutes. They can consist of a game time, craft project, snack, and lesson with each area needing volunteers to cover the activity for thirty to sixty children on any given day. There is lots of planning that goes into each club, but all of it is worthwhile. If this sounds like something that you can support, please contact Ms. Patience Ngalla at pzngalla.cefnova@gmail.com for more details.

Now, if you are looking for something a little more hands on, then we have at least one more opportunity that we can present to you. The North American Missions Board (NAMB) is always looking for individuals or small groups to take part in two-day or week-long missionary efforts within a few hours drive of here. The NAMB site has listings for events and outreach opportunities in Atlanta, GA, Ashland, KY, Memphis, TN, and Boston, MA. Details about any of these locations and the specific dates and efforts can be viewed by using the following link <https://volunteer.sendrelief.org/?ProjectRegionId=lgement>

If you have any questions about any of these mission outreaches, first try to contact those that we mentioned in the article. If you cannot reach them, contact us and we will do what we can to get you connected to the area that you feel God is calling you to get involved in. As always, continue to pray that the kingdom work will be done. And be ever mindful that we are all called to be On Missions for God.

Jon White & Sergio “Woody” Wooden

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Foreign/International Mission's Lead
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Sergio Wooden, Co-Chairperson
Local/Stateside Mission's Lead
Woody2473@yahoo.com

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS ARE COMING BACK 09/02/26

We need your help



WEDNESDAY @ 5PM

Need leads to cook 1 to 3 meals. Need help for each lead to assist with shopping, prepping food, serving and cleaning up



MEETING 08/16/26 @ 12PM

Meeting for anyone who may want to help with meals. We will schedule dates and create menus. We will also have a kitchen walk through.



DINNERS RUN WITH THE AWANA CALENDAR

Dinners will be Wednesday nights. September through March



MUST REGISTER FOR DINNER

You can register online each week or call the church office. Registration has to be in Monday by 5pm of the week of the dinner. Registering lets the cooks know how many to plan for.

Can We Count on
You

Tammy Snyder
Bookkeeper@rbcstafford.org



HELLO. AUGUST

August 2026

RISE-UP Children's Ministry

~ Jenny Forrester

~ Andrea Romero

UPCOMING

August 2nd
Promotion Sunday

August 9th
Fall Festival
Planning Meeting

August 19th
AWANA CPT

August 20th
RUHM Kitchen
Training & CPT

August 27th
RUHM 1st Day of Fall
Semester

August 30th
Fall Festival
Planning Meeting

VOLUNTEERS

NEEDED

CHILDREN'S CHURCH MEMORY VERSES

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

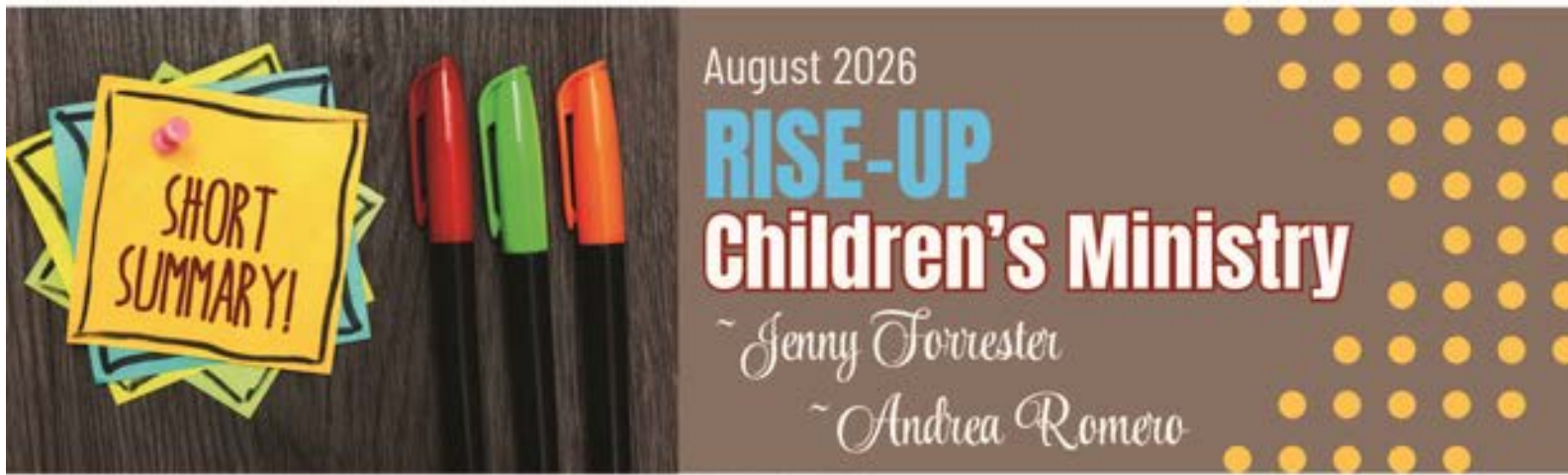


AWANA will be starting up very soon. We will be adjusting our program to suit the needs that have been identified from the past 2 years. Please register to volunteer for AWANA and help disciple the next generation of believers.

In Addition to AWANA Volunteers, We are looking for More Volunteers for Sunday Morning Services.

We need more Sunday School & Children's Church Teachers & Assistants.

Pray and consider if God is calling you to take a leap of faith into Children's ministry.



July 2026 Recap

July was a very eventful month with Camp Red Arrow, cleaning, prepping and repairing, painting, Paint-Pic-& Play Night, AWANA registration, and so much more.

~Three sponsors and twenty children went to Camp Red Arrow. Thank you to Matt, Sam, & Trinity for going with the children! Thank you to Carroll Blake & Matt Giles for driving the bus.

~The Children's Ministry hallways received a fresh covering of paint in July after some repairs were made. As time goes by, more items will be added to the walls. If you would like to donate toward these items, please feel free to make a donation to Children's Ministry and type REFRESH into the memo line. (Pictures on following pages.)

~AWANA Registration opened on July 19th.

~Paint, Pic, & Play was held on July 24. (Pictures will be in September's Beacon.)

After the page with the photos, please enjoy the short story written by Isabell Forrester.



THE GREAT RODENT MEETING

COPPER

Copper fiddled with her favorite marble she found in the Treasure Hall (to the humans it was called the resource room, but everyone in the Nest considered it to be a wonderful collection of treasures to use in their homes). “We shouldn’t be listening to this.”

The Grand Opossum had gathered the rodent leaders to the town center under the Chapel to discuss the newest addition of rodent traps. After dear Poppy’s passing at the hand of the Snapping Wood every rodent had been on alert. Copper herself had never seen a Snapping Wood but her brother Pickart was a sly and bold mouse who often wandered around at night and had seen the very Snapping Wood that took Poppy away from them. Pickart was also the one who told Copper about the meeting that had been arranged after two more Snapping Woods appeared.

“We have just as much right to be here as anyone else,” Pickart turned his pink nose upward and nodded as if that settled the argument, but Copper couldn’t ignore the pit that was digging itself into her furry stomach, and it didn’t help that they were hiding behind a wooden post like criminals.

The Grand Opossum seated himself at the top of the dirt hill. His dark obsidian eyes peering over the rest of the rodents. Two dust brown mice leaders were seated just at the edge of the hill with five glossy black rats behind them and three dirty tan bunnies to their left laying hunched over since they were not happy to be called to such a meeting that *shouldn’t* require their attention. And finally, at the very back were two medium sized opossums, the children of the Grand Opossum himself. There were several missing rodent leaders like the moles, voles and squirrels and others, but still the Grand Opossum had to begin the meeting. “My friends, thank you for coming. Some of you may be wondering why we have asked for you,” the Grand Opossum glanced over at the bunnies with a smile, “it is not to waste your time, but only that we appreciate everyone’s thoughts and that a good idea should not be passed up simply because it doesn’t apply to you alone.”

“Blah, blah, blah. The traps aren’t worth the fuss,” Pickart mumbled beside Copper who immediately stepped on his foot. Pickart dignified himself with not retaliating and instead continued listening.

“—we must address this now, before our nests are destroyed and our families taken by the Snapping Wood. So, please my friends, if any one of you has an idea, please speak up.”

Several hours into the Rodent meeting Pickart couldn't stand it anymore. They were getting nowhere! The rabbits refused to partake and when questioned about it, they simply stated “the matters of the building do not apply to us.” The rats weren't much help either with their crude ideas for acting like the problem wasn't there, because ignoring a problem made it disappear, as *everyone* knew. He couldn't bear to hear what the mice would say so finally he left Copper to herself. She agreed with him, they weren't getting far and the conversation was getting hard to watch. But Copper didn't want to leave. Not yet anyway.

Eventually another mouse waddled up beside her, Tommy. Now Tommy wasn't your average mouse. For one thing, most mice were a nice shade of coffee brown, but Tommy looked like he rolled in a pile of grey dust. For another thing, while most mice had a long elegant tail, Tommy had a stub, while still a nice tail it wasn't your typical mouse feature. Finally, Tommy was quite a bit rounder in several proportions, like head, body, and overall fluffiness. But differences aside he was still a rodent like Copper and that was enough for them to be friends.

TOMMY

Pickart may have thought these Sn—traps weren't a problem but Tommy was sure that they were a huge problem.

Tommy knew, he was sure!

At least he hoped he knew.

He thought...

Maybe they weren't that big of a problem...No!

Tommy stomped his paw on the dirt. “W—we must decide.”

Copper looked at him sideways. “It's not for us to decide. And I still don't think we should be here.”

After looking through the green room and finding several snacks he waddled back into the nest to see how the meeting was going. Not much had changed, the bunnies were still complaining, the rats were throwing ideas out without a second thought and the mice weren't offering any help.

Something shone in the Grand Opossum's obscure black eyes—frustration maybe. Yes, frustration, like that of a parent whose child refuses to listen and was throwing a tantrum. Copper didn't think that being at the meetings were allowed for anyone outside of the Leaders but the truth was that anyone was allowed it's just that no one ever seems to take the initiative to come except for those required to be here.

In most meetings the Rodent leaders would continue with the meeting until a suitable idea had been formed, but by the looks of it, that could last hours —no —days.

And days did pass, many days...

So many days...

But a decision *had* been made, and would be announced soon.

Tommy leaned back onto a wooden beam as he nibbled on a goldfish cracker that had been left in the green room. "At least the meeting i—is over." He turned to Copper who was digging into the dirt making a little pocket to settle in.

Copper sat down in her dirt pocket, "Yeah, but there's still so much to do; like go to the announcement, follow the plan they've made, and make sure my brother follows it too. It's just so much stuff. I don't think I can do all of that."

SCREECH! A mouse called out over the nest.

The meeting was starting. Copper sighed loudly, but Tommy stood and finished chomping on his goldfish, "w—well let's just s—start with the announcement."

Together they waddled to the back of the nest in between two wooden posts. Between the posts was a mound of dirt and rock upon which two more mice stood on their hind legs. One large and deep brown, and the other had a long snout, pink nose and very large ears. The larger one spoke first, "After some time, we finally decided that it is best to avoid the rooms that contain the Snapping Wood."

Tommy flinched at the name.

Copper tilted her head. "But avoiding them won't get rid of them," she whispered to Tommy.

"B—but it's all we can do."

PICKART

Night had FINALLY come and Pickart was going to take every advantage of it. Sure, there were new Snapping Wood, but he was smarter than a dumb piece of wood and metal. It was the treat he was after. Let the Rodent leaders have their meeting, they weren't going to stop him.

"W-Where are we going?" Tommy peered into the doorway's crack.

"Where else?" Pickart dropped from the door in the green room wall with a bounce and waddled out of the room with little caution and Tommy right behind him.

"But there's a—a—a—" Tommy lowered his voice to barely a whisper, "a trap." Pickart rolled his eyes. Tommy had never been able to say the Snapping Wood by its name, so instead referred to it by "trap."

"Yep, and where there's a trap, there's also a treat."

"B—but we're not supposed to go into those r—rooms"

"Not supposed to doesn't mean forbidden."

Tommy stopped arguing, but disapproval radiated from him.

They shuffled down the hallway coming to a doorway painted bright tangerine orange. With a glance at Tommy, Pickart marched through the doorway and headed right to the closet. The humans always leave the snacks haphazardly in the closet as if mice can't reach them.

"Thank you, humans," Pickart scoffed as he opened the pretzels and licked the salt off of the long stick while Tommy was still struggling to make it up the cardboard boxes and cloth. Just one container of pretzels would feed the whole Nest for a month and to think that they're just left for them.

Tommy rolled onto the top box heaving heavily, "Humans must love mice, i—if they leave all this food h—here."

Pickart laughed, "Yeah, right." He nibbled on the end of the pretzel. "They love us so much that they leave Snapping Wood for us." After taking his fill of the salty snack, Pickart set his mind on a sweet challenge.

Waddling across the hall into a room painted firetruck red, Pickart had only one thought in mind. Reese's! The nutty smell of the filling danced in his nose and his eyes locked in on a sight that would scare most of the mice in the nest. It's pale wooden base lying flat on the dark carpet and a shiny metal bar poised for snapping. Yes. This was the Snapping Wood all mice feared.

Though he would never admit it, Pickart felt a tinge of fear tingling in his

mind. But the dancing of the sweet and salty candy craved for his attention and he was all for listening to it.

“P—PICKART!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!!”

Before he even knew it, Pickart was pushed away from his prized treat. “I’m getting the Reese’s,” He moved towards the candy again, slightly irritated that he had been interrupted.

But Tommy moved in front of him, “I c—cannot let you have that. I—I will not stand by and watch my friend be snapped!”

Pickart moved around his friend, “trust me, I can get it.”

Tommy gave up with a heavy sigh and moved out of his friend’s way.

Pickart circled the Snapping Wood three times, observing every bit of it before disappearing into the closet to search for a proper tool. After finding a toothpick, he etched back towards the treat and reached the stick out. Wabbling a little bit, Pickart carefully touched the Reese’s. Both Pickart and Tommy held their breath as Pickart began to push the peanut buttery treat off the metal.

It started to slide and Tommy flinched making Pickart retreat.

But it didn’t snap.

“Don’t do that!” Pickart barked. Heaving a sigh Pickart lifted the toothpick again and aimed it towards the treat.

Like before, the treat moved. It was at the edge. Now it was time for the true test.

Pickart’s shoulders tensed, eye’s focused, heart racing...trying to ignore Tommy who was hiding his face.

One final push!

The candy fell and there was silence.

Pickart dropped the stick behind him and picked up the prize. Closing his eyes he lifted the treat to his mouth but stopped, he glanced over at Tommy who was shaking with his back to Pickart. Pickart rolled his eyes and split the treat in half and held out half of it to his friend, “here.”

Tommy stopped shaking and looked up, surprised. “You survived!”

Shrugging, Pickart handed the piece to Tommy, “I told you I could get it.” Tommy took the piece and Pickart looked back at the trap, which now lay poised but without any bait. These traps may not be that much of a problem, he thought as he chewed his prize.

By Isabell Forrester

Youth Ministry

This past month, our student ministry had the joy of spending a week at summer camp in Ridgecrest, North Carolina. We are so grateful for how the Lord used that time in the lives of our students. While camp certainly included plenty of fun and memorable activities, our greatest prayer was that every student would encounter the truth of God's Word and grow in their love for Christ.

Each day followed a rhythm designed to keep Christ at the center. Students began with a morning celebration, and then joined with students from other churches to study the Bible together. These discussions provided opportunities to ask thoughtful questions, and be encouraged by fellow believers who believe the same gospel that we do, even though they come from different congregations.

The afternoons provided opportunities for a variety of recreational activities, and opportunities for students to build friendships together. A special highlight for our group was the high ropes course, which we were able to experience together as a church. Students challenged themselves and cheered one another on. It was a memorable opportunity to grow together as a group, and a reminder that God has graciously given us fellow believers in the local church to encourage one another, bear one another's burdens, and spur one another on toward love and good works.

The centerpiece of each day, however, was the evening worship service. Night after night, our students sat under the faithful preaching of God's Word, hearing Christ proclaimed and His gospel clearly presented. In a culture filled with competing messages, it was a joy to watch students eagerly open their Bibles and listen attentively. After each service, our group gathered to reflect on the message, ask questions, share what the Lord was teaching us, and think together about how to apply God's Word to our lives.

We are especially thankful for the volunteers who invested their time in our students, and for our church family, whose prayers and support made this trip possible. Please continue praying that the truths our students heard through the preaching of God's Word would take deep root, producing lasting fruit as they grow in Christ, love His church, and faithfully follow Him.



Pastor Ben LoPresti

SBC OF VA

Backpacks



FOR

Appalachia



There are several ways to help with the backpacks.

Tax-free weekend is August 7-9 **2026**

BUY A CASE OF BACKPACKS \$80.00

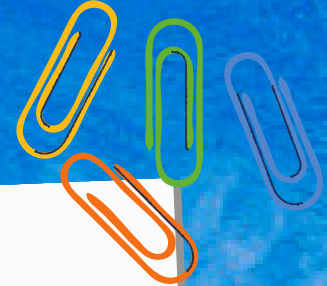
BUY A BACKPACK AND PROVIDE ALL THE ITEMS ON THE LIST IN IT

BUY AN ITEM OR TWO OFF THE LIST IN BULK TO FILL UP THE BACKPACKS

STARTING 08/01 TO 09/01/26
Packing Backpack 09/11/26

Tammy Snyder
Bookkeeper@rbcstafford.org





LIST FOR BACKPACKS

1 SCHOOL SUPPLY POUCH

FILLED WITH #2 PENCILS, SMALL SHARPENER, COLORED PENCIL, INK PENS AND PACK OF CRAYONS

1 REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE

1 QUART-SIZE ZIPLOC BAG WITH CANDY

EX., SKITTLES, SMARTIES, LOLLIPOPS NO CHOCOLATE

1 GALLON-SIZE ZIPLOC BAG WITH PERSONAL ITEMS

EX. TOOTHBRUSH, TOOTHPASTE, HAIRBRUSH, SOAP AND SHAMPOO

1 GALLON-SIZE ZIPLOC BAG WITH SINGLE-SERVE FOOD ITEMS

EX. CHEESE CRACKER, SQUEEZE APPLESAUCE, GRANOLA BARS. ANIMAL CRACKERS

1 SET OF WINTER GLOVES AND HAT

1 PACK OF SOCKS

PERSONAL NOTE OR CARD

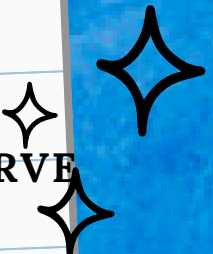
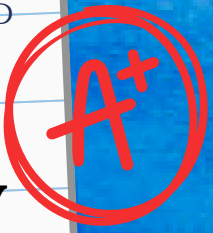
OPTIONAL ITEMS:

SMALL NON-ELECTRONIC TOY
JOURNAL, COLORING BOOK,
ACTIVITY BOOK

KID THEMED BANDAIDS
SUNGLASSES,

SMALL STUFFED ANIMAL
BASEBALL CAP

DEFLATED SPORTS BALL AND PUMP



August Birthdays

August 2

Suzanne Battle
Jamie Sellers

August 3

Patti Walls

August 4

John Treida Jr.

August 5

Ashley Turman
Kayla White

August 6

Grace Fraley
Joan Nutton

August 7

Tony Sokolowski

August 8

Johnathon Libby
Arthur Limerick

August 10

Heath Hunter

August 11

Henry Hooke

August 14

Mary Marshall
Thomas Skeer

August 15

Sarah Delano
Joe Pearson

August 16

Megan Williams

August 17

Lauren Bennett
Nancy Bryant
Nathanael Lungoccia

August 19

Rich Mehochko

August 20

Gary Bennett

August 21

Owen Melander

August 22

Matt Wheeler

August 23

Everleigh Eicher

August 26

Brenda Ojibway
Ashlee Schneider

August 29

Violet Spears

August 30

Cydney Leech

August 31

Shayna Eicher
Linda Rochefort

Hughes Home Riverhouse

Peggy Jenkins

August 7

Donald Tate

August 8

Dorothy Beagle

August 9

Brenda Karhan

August 9

Ralph House

August 16

DONATIONS

The Hughes Home Riverhouse Ministry is always accepting Depends, in all sizes, but need more larger sizes.

Mail a Card!

Name of Person c/o Hughes
Home 100 Caroline Street,
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Stewardship

Offerings and Attendance January 1–July 20

Offerings

GENERAL FUND

DESIGNATED FUND

EXPENSES

Cemetery Fund

UPKEEP

DONATIONS

Average Attendance

SUNDAY EVENTS

WEDNESDAY EVENTS

OTHER WEEKLY EVENTS

In Christian Sympathy

Worship Service & Sunday School Schedule

Early Service & Sunday School 9:00–10:00AM Adult Schedule

Location	Class	Teachers	Curriculum	Demographics
301	Beholding Glory	P. Bowman & R. Colson	Explore/Gospel Project	All Ages
306	Senior Men	K. Knowles	Lifeway Bible Studies for Life	Senior Men
307	Chronological Study of the Bible-1	C. Turman & S. Springer	Survey of the Old Testament (exegetical/expository)	All Ages
Chapel	The Ladies' Class	T. Harrell & K. Colson	Gospel of Mark	Ladies
Fellowship Hall	Chronological Study of the Bible-2	C. Adams & H. Hunter	Chronological Study through the Bible	Married Couples

Late Service & Sunday School 10:30–11:30AM Adult Schedule

Location	Class	Teachers	Curriculum	Demographics
301	Overcomers in Christ	G. Bennett	Lifeway Bible Studies for Life	All Ages
307	Expository Study of the Bible	P. Johnson & M. Wheeler	Genesis	All Ages
305	Season Saints	P. Menteer & M. Craiger	Lifeway Bible Studies for Life	Seniors
Chapel	Young Adults	M. Sarkissian & N. Ewoldt	Life Change Bible Studies	Young Adults

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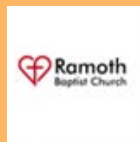
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Ways to Give

Online: rbcstafford.org

Download our App:



Mail: 478 Ramoth Church Road,
Stafford, VA 22554