

The Beacon

May

Baby Dedication Sunday

This Mother's Day, RBC will have our annual Baby Dedication. If you would like to dedicate your child, reach out to admin@rbcstafford.org.



VBS Preparation

VBS is quickly approaching. Check the Children's Ministry article for the VBS schedule.

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.

Table of Contents

Senior Pastor.....	3
Deacon Ministry.....	5
Worship Ministry.....	6
Prime Timer Luncheon.....	7
Refuge Ministry.....	8
Women’s Ministry.....	10
Men’s Ministry.....	14
Acts 1:8 Ministry.....	17
Young Adult Ministry.....	19
Children’s Ministry.....	21
Youth Ministry.....	24
Birthdays.....	25
Stewardship.....	26
Sunday School Schedule.....	27
Contact Us.....	28

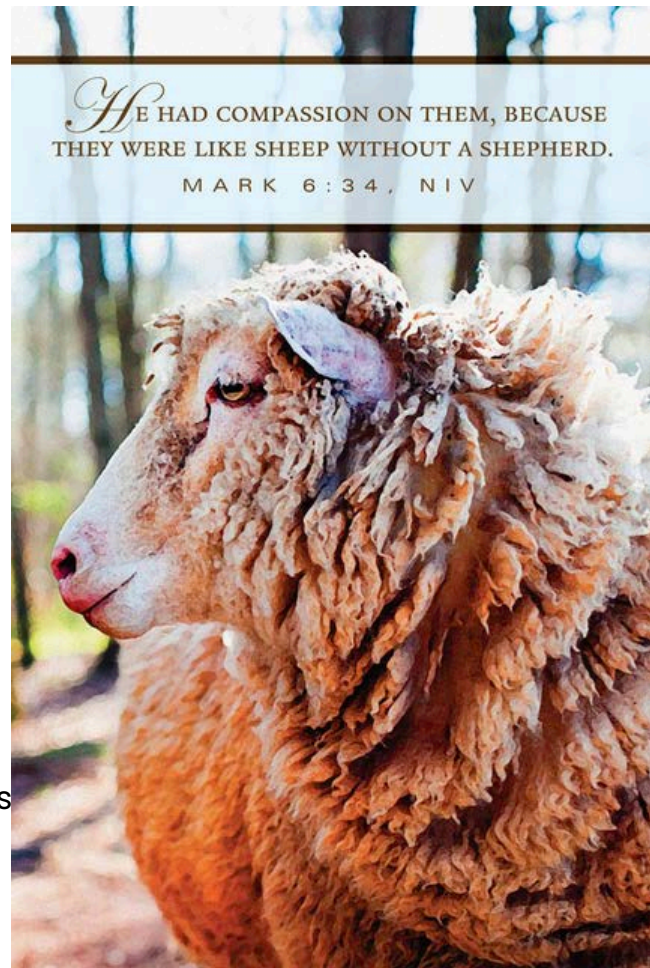
Faithful Servants, Growing Together

Greetings,

In Mark 6:34-44 we look at one of the most shared miracles of Jesus. You're probably very familiar with it but perhaps haven't realized that there are other implications that are also revealing and important. This is the factual account of Jesus feeding 5,000 people with one little boy's lunch. In fact, there were far more in attendance as it was the custom of the day to only count the men who were present. Women and children, in that society, were considered not worthy of being counted. We concentrate most of our thoughts on the feeding of the 5,000 but there was another miracle that happened that day that most often goes unnoticed. That miracle was of the little, unimportant boy, in the eyes of most, who was willing to serve because he gave up his lunch to the disciples to take to Jesus. He had no idea what was going to happen with his lunch but he was willing to serve by giving it up to find out. He didn't hesitate, he didn't argue, he didn't complain, he didn't pass the buck by saying it was the people's fault they were hungry because they weren't as prepared as he. He just responded when he recognized the need and was called upon. Now, Jesus didn't need this little boy's lunch to feed the people but He used it to show the need for people serving to help others. You see, many times God doesn't give us the entire picture until we're willing to serve and to give sacrificially of our time, talents, and resources. Ever thought about that?

This miracle is very important to us today because God wants us to know, not as much about the miracle which is pretty clear, but that you need to be prepared for service no matter how small the contribution might be. You see, Jesus always did miracles to teach a lesson and not to simply bring attention to Himself. Someday, in all probability, you're going to need a miracle in some area of your life and you might even need one now and you might be saying, "God how do I get You to help me?" That's our cry in desperation and that's when we need to look seriously at this miracle because there is a great lesson here that teaches us how to be in relationship with God to prepare ourselves to serve and we need to know and live by these principles. Let me briefly share these principles with you in this article.

First, we as a church and as individuals we must admit that we have a need and that need is to serve. Second, we must take inventory of what we have to work with. Third, we must give God what we have no matter how large or how small it might be. And fourth, we serve as best we can and allow God to use it for His glory. That all sounds pretty simple, doesn't it? It is, until we start to put it into practice. We need to visualize the response of this little boy who had so little but yet gave so much. He gave all that he had and received far more than he ever expected. Same thing happens today when we follow this example. This little boy, in serving when he saw the need, became the hero and received a blessing, not because of what he had, but because he was willing to give to Jesus what he had. The question then comes to us today, as we have far more than this little boy, are we willing in our service to the Lord? What we see here is that God does extraordinary things



through ordinary people when they're willing. God doesn't look at who you are or what position you hold in the workplace or in the church, or how much education you have, or what material possessions you have, or what gifts and talents you may have, but He looks at your attitude in serving. And sad to say, a lot of Christians today have a rotten attitude about serving.

I say all of this to encourage you of the importance of serving in the Lord's work. We are just a few weeks away for VBS and we still need more volunteers. This is one of the biggest outreach ministries we do throughout the year and it takes over 100-150 volunteers to make it happen. Our prayer each year is that we reach more children than we did the year before and that has developed the need for 2 VBS sessions. The first is in the morning and the second is in the evening. We need multiple volunteers in both sessions. Would you be willing, like the little boy with the lunch, to step up to meet the need? If so, please contact our Director of Children's Ministry, Jenny Forrester as 540-659-4588 ext. 6 or by e-mail at children@rbcstafford.org

If you do, you will receive a blessing and you hopefully will see a miracle when a large number of children accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Dr. Richard Harrell



"A Christ-Centered Community of Refuge for Families Who Love God, Love People, and Change Our World"

YOU'RE INVITED!

TO OUR *Groundbreaking!*

A NEW CHAPTER. A GREATER IMPACT.
A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR OUR COMMUNITY.



 SUNDAY
MAY 31, 2026

 4:00 PM

 RAMOTH BAPTIST CHURCH
478 RAMOTH CHURCH ROAD
STAFFORD, VA 22554

BE PART OF WHAT GOD IS BUILDING
All are welcome!



A NEW BEGINNING
for Stafford County!

We are excited to celebrate the groundbreaking of our new **Family Life Center**—a place where lives will be transformed, families strengthened, and our community will find hope, help, and the love of Christ.


A PLACE TO CONNECT


A PLACE TO GROW


A PLACE TO SERVE


A PLACE OF HOPE

PLEASE JOIN US!
Groundbreaking Ceremony

 SUNDAY
MAY 31, 2026

 4:00 PM

 RAMOTH BAPTIST CHURCH
478 Ramoth Church Road
Stafford, VA 22554

All are welcome!



SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT RAMOTH BAPTIST CHURCH



Join us AS WE TAKE THIS NEXT STEP OF FAITH TOGETHER!
MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS. MEET OUR LEADERSHIP. BE PART OF THE FUTURE.

rbcstafford.org | (540) 659-4588 | FOLLOW US   

Building for the Future: Family Life Center Groundbreaking

Join us as we mark together our faith in action! On **May 31 at 4:00 PM**, we will gather for our **Family Life Center (FLC) Groundbreaking Ceremony**. As a church family we will celebrate what God has done and step forward together into what He is building next. This is more than the start of construction—it's a visible declaration of our commitment to ministry for generations to come.

The FLC represents opportunity. It will be a place for discipleship, fellowship, outreach, and connection across every generation. From children and students to senior adults, this space will serve as a hub for Christ-centered ministry and community life.

As we look ahead, we also want to pause and give thanks. So many in our church family have already stepped forward in faith—honoring their building fund commitments with generosity and consistency. Your faithfulness is making this moment possible. Because of your willingness to give and trust the Lord, we are able to move forward with confidence and unity. It is a testimony to the strength and heart of our congregation.

At the same time, this journey continues to invite participation.

For those who are newer to our church, or for those who may be returning and reconnecting, we want you to know—there is a place for you in this story. This is not about equal giving, but equal sacrifice and our shared vision and willing hearts. Each person and family has the opportunity to prayerfully consider how they might be part of what God is building here.

There are several ways to engage:

- Pray for wisdom, provision, and unity.
- Participate by joining us at the groundbreaking and staying connected throughout the process.
- Give as the Lord leads, knowing that every gift plays a role in shaping a space where lives will be changed.
- Dr. Richard, on April 19th, laid out six principles related to giving, in his sermon, "We Give to Please and to Worship God". I encourage you all to check your notes on that sermon or go back and watch it!

Remember to join us on May 31 as we break ground together—celebrating God's faithfulness and trusting Him for all that lies ahead!

Tim Eicher, Deacon Chairman

Deacons of the Week

May 3

Chris Adams (540) 426-6722
Sean Springer (571) 697-9309

May 10

Matt Giles (864) 207-0787
Andy Robeson (769) 234-0079

May 17

Kerry Knowles (540) 834-6631
Matt Sarkissian (909) 855-2881

May 24

Flavius Lungoccia (540) 840-5689
Bob Peoples (540) 226-7083

May 31

Randy Colson (703) 864-9058
Sean Truax (770) 354-2514

The Privilege of Worship

Have you ever found yourself not wanting to worship? Maybe you woke up that morning and didn't want to go to church. Perhaps life has been hard, and you don't feel like singing songs of praise. You prefer to simply be quiet and think about the difficulties in your life. God knows you love Him. Why do you have to be with other people today?

Let's begin by defining what worship is. Worship is an expression of love for God and an acknowledgment of His greatness. Yes, this can be done sitting in a boat on a lake somewhere, but there are other aspects of worship we need to address.

1. Worship is a Response to God's Love Worship is a natural response to the love and grace that God has shown us. In 1 John 4:19, we read, "We love because he first loved us." This verse highlights the essence of our relationship with God: He initiates the love, and our worship is a response to that beautiful, divine love. It's not about fulfilling a duty but rather embracing the opportunity to express our gratitude and affection towards our Creator. Is this what you think of when you worship? Are you expressing your love to God for the love He has shown you? When you don't feel like loving anyone you still embrace that little child that calls you mom or dad. God wants to embrace us and totally wrap us in His love as we give Him glory and tell Him how much we love our Father.

2. Worship Brings Us Closer to God Another reason we get to worship is that it fosters a deeper connection with God. The Psalmist expresses this beautifully in Psalm 95:6-7 (NIV), which states, "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care." Worship is not just an act; it's a means of entering into a more profound relationship with God. Through worship, we recognize His sovereignty, and in turn, we find rest and affirm our identity as His beloved children (Romans 8:16). Every act of worship reminds us that we are His children. Every act of worship calls out to Abba, Father, we love you. Let us worship Him and allow Him to draw us close.

3. Worship Strengthens the Community of Believers Worship is also a communal act, bringing together believers in unity and purpose. Hebrews 10:24-25 encourages believers, saying, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another. When we meet together to worship, we are in one purpose. We pray the same prayer together. We experience the Spirit move together. We praise the one true God together. We are His people and being His people brings us fellowship, a bond that is hard to understand if you do not belong to God.

4. Worship draws unbelievers to Christ When we worship together, and unbelievers are in our midst; we serve as an example of love and light to those who are lost. We sing together and love on each other and that is not lost on the unbeliever. This fellowship, this sense of belonging is exactly what the lost are desiring. The message can be one of conviction and the prayer can be a cry to God for deliverance, but the worship of the believer exemplifies the relationship we have with God. If we love each other and show our love to the lost, they will see we have a true relationship with Christ (John 13:34-35). They may desire what we have. I have seen this at the hospital where people suffered without Christ and were moved to accept Jesus just by watching the Christian suffer and yet have strength and comfort from our Lord.

Let's worship God. Let's worship God in love because He first loved us. Let's worship God in love and be drawn closer to Him. Let's worship God and be a light for the entire world. Let's worship God together because we belong to Him. We are brothers and sisters and were created to be with Him. Let's worship!

Pastor Chuck Hite

Prime Timer's **SPRING REVIVAL**

All Are Welcome



MAY 4-6, 2026

11:00AM



Theme:

Showers of Blessings

Menu:

Monday-Pizza - Prime Timers will provide food

Tuesday-Tacos - Prime Timers will provide food

Wednesday -Fried Chicken - Prime Timers will provide chicken. Please bring a side dish or dessert.

Hostess:

Virginia Armstrong, Helen Young, and Linda Buckles

Decorator:

Linda Buckles

Guest Speaker/Testimony:

Pastor Ben LoPresti

Singing Every Day



The Refuge Ministry

Greetings and blessings, once again to all of our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are quickly approaching a new season here at Ramoth Baptist Church and at the Refuge Ministry Center. In both places we have seen many fresh faces and have had a number of changes taking place. So, we thought it would be a suitable time to remind everyone as to what the Refuge Ministry Center is all about. This will include what all we do and why it is that we do it.

The RMC, as we are affectionately known as within the church, came to exist as a way to provide help in many ways to those attending the church and to those in our local community. We wanted to provide a place of hope, help, and healing. We also wanted a place for people to be seen and heard, because too often the world around us does not slow down enough to do that, for those who have been marginalized or all together forgotten. We wanted a place that felt real, that was personable, and that delighted in doing God's work and ministering to God's people.

The RMC has sought, since its establishment in 2019, to address the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and relational needs of those that God would send its way. Over the years the RMC has addressed each of these in its own unique way. Sometimes it has been in special events. At other times it has been the routine approach to weekly activities that people have come to rely upon, as those weekly activities have been constant reminder of God's love and care for people. Here are a few of those things spelled out in detail.

On Monday mornings and evenings, the RMC sponsors a weekly grief support group called GriefShare. It was the first initiative that the RMC launched when it began. GriefShare is faith-based, thirteen-week video and workbook series that helps people who are trying to deal with the loss of a loved-one, a traumatic event, or grief in general. A member of the RMC staff facilitates this, and the meetings are offered at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. every Monday, except when observing major holidays. It is open to anyone who is in need of support and encouragement. The only cost associated with the series is the price of the workbook. This helps address the mental, emotional, spiritual, and relational needs of people.

On Tuesday mornings, from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., the RMC sponsors a weekly food pantry. It is open to residents of Stafford County. We look to provide those in need, with healthy and balanced meal supplements, as the cost of groceries continues to increase and traditional support programs continue to be reduced. The food pantry has been a community outreach initiative for nearly two decades. Food pantry clients are allowed to receive food boxes once every three weeks. Food boxes are limited to one-family per household and provide meal components for a week's worth of breakfast, lunches, and dinners for a family of four. This helps address the physical, mental, and emotional needs of people.

On Thursday evenings, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., during the fall, winter, and spring seasons, the RMC sponsors a weekly couple's bible study. This group is open to couples of all ages and childcare is provided. The group meets, shares a meal, and works through a study on a book from the Bible or a study series that is intended to grow and strength a marriage. The study series has been provided through the Art of Marriage connect sponsored by FamilyLife. The cost associated is tied to the potluck meals shared each week and the cost of the book. This helps to address the spiritual, emotional, mental, and relational needs of people.

The RMC offers counseling services for a variety of needs. We offer family, couple, or individual counseling. We offer pre-marital and marital counseling. We can provide services in-person or virtually. We also offer life-coaching, mentoring, financial and budget counseling, as well as services that address the specific needs of a client. The desire of RMC is to meet people where they are and to help guide them in the direction that God would want them to go. This helps with the mental, emotional, spiritual, physical, and relational needs of people.

These are the primary efforts that the RMC is continuously engaged in providing for people who need or want them. We have also been responsible for a marriage conference and Christmas present giveaway. Each and every effort is intended to provide hope, extend help, and aid in healing. If you have any questions about the activities mentioned above or would like to direct someone to us, please let them know that 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. And remember, we are here for you and the community, because that is what God has called us to do. 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
May 11th and 25th at 1:00PM in Rm 306.

Dear Ramoth Family,

As spring is upon us, (although some of these days have certainly been a taste of summer!), we want to honor and thank the women in our lives who have tended to our needs, grown our faith and shown us the love of Christ. To those of you who are mothers or mothers alike, who have surrendered your time, talents and hearts to foster godly relationships or just offered up a smile, a hug or a hello, we thank you. You have brightened our lives and we treasure you. Thank you for being women of the Word, living examples of how to follow Christ and share His love in all that you do. Please stop by the Women's Ministry table on Mother's Day, May 10th, to pick up a small gift of our love and appreciation of you (mothers and mothers alike)!

Heavenly Guardian on Earth

In her gaze, a world so kind,
Heavenly love, in her, we find.
God's guardian, sent from above,
To shield us with selfless love.

Her sacrifices, so silent, so deep,
Promises to us, she'll always keep.
In her steps, in her gentle sway,
God's love is shown, every day.

For she's more than just a mother's name,
She's God's love, always the same.
Heavenly guardian, so true and worth,
Thank you for being our angel on earth.

Upcoming Events:



Sunday, May 3rd (next one June 7th): 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!

Monday's starting May 4th: New Women's Bible Study: Enjoying Jesus

Location: RBC Room 306

Time: 6:30pm-8:00pm

Enjoying Jesus is intended to be immensely practical. The spiritual disciplines are where theology meets everyday life, but only you can put them into practice in your life. Our hope is that you will try each of the twelve disciplines we'll cover over this 7-session study. The spiritual disciplines aren't meant to simply be studied; they are meant to be put into action. Their power is in their practice. Come

Join us as we learn and grow closer to Jesus, while encouraging each other in putting these disciplines into practice. Sign up online or in the foyer today! For more questions contact Denise Johnson 703-283-5957. All materials will be provided.

Tuesday, May 5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th: 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 with this month's focus being VBS. Whether you come every Tuesday or only once, you are always welcome! Contact Lidia Lungoccia for more info (540-840-5729).



Sun, May 10th-Jun 21st: IMGN Life Baby Bottle Campaign

We will start our baby bottle campaign to support IMGN Life from Mother's Day through Father's Day. Last year the RBC family raised over \$6,000.00! This year let us pray and come together to exceed that goal! The concept of the Baby Bottle Campaign is simple. We will have baby bottles that members can pick up in the foyer to take home and fill them with coins, cash, or checks made payable to IMGN Life, or you can donate online at imgnlife.org. The proceeds help families CHOOSE LIFE through free education and services offered at their center in our local area.



Friday, May 15th: FIT Workshop – Watercolor Painting

Location: RBC

Time: 10:00am-12:00pm

Leader: Pam Null (pamelanull@gmail.com)

Come and join this exciting workshop and enjoy Christian fellowship as we learn painting together! We will go step by step in creating a canvas you will want to share with others!

Sat, May 16th: FIT Workshops – Fiber & Fellowship & Creating Cards

Location: Youth Room

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!



Friday, May 22nd: S'more of God's Love Bonfire

Location: Parsonage House (field across the street from the church behind Pastor Ben's House)

Time: 6:00pm-8:00pm

Ladies come and join us for a great evening of fun, fellowship, light snacks and smores. Bring a chair and get ready for a great night as we kick off the summer together. All ages welcome!

Save the Date!

VBS Decorating Day!

The week of June 8th-12th

Specific date/time and details coming soon!

Save the Date!

Friday, June 26th – July 23rd: Women's Bible Study – The Book of Ruth

Location: RBC Room 307

Time: 10am

Come join us for a new women's daytime bible study starting June 26th! Sign-ups and more info coming soon!

Save the Date!

July 2026 – GALS (Girls of All Life Stages) Game Day

Location: Fellowship Hall

Time: TBD

Come join us for fellowship and a fun game day with light food, drinks and games! All ladies of all ages welcome! More info and details to come.

Save the Date!

Thursday, July 23rd: Serve Concessions at Fredericksburg Nationals Game

Location- Fredericksburg Stadium

We need 13-15 people to help serve food/drinks and raise awareness for IMGN Life and Choices Women's Center. No experience needed, we will provide you with a t-shirt, hat, and all the training you need. All we ask is for a willing heart and team spirit! Sign-ups coming soon and limited spots available so be on the lookout! Easy online training must be completed in advance.

Save the Date!

Sunday, Aug. 9th Fredericksburg Nationals Game – Church-Wide Invite!

Location- Fredericksburg Stadium

Sign-ups and more info coming soon!

Save the Date!

RBC Kitchen Clean-Up Day

Location- RBC Kitchen

Come help us after VBS and before the start of AWANA to clean the kitchen to prepare for the new season! More details regarding date & time to come.

Needs and Thank You's!

Thank you to everyone that helped with the breakfast for Easter Sunday! We could not have prepared/set-up/served/cleaned without you! You are very much appreciated!

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!



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 Mountainman Skills Challenge -

Coming in August. Join us for this fun event that has grown each year. Dad's & sons, young men, youth and seasoned men will be tested in 10 events challenging your expertise—axe throwing, knife throwing, bow & arrow, slingshot and, yes, the infamous toilet seat toss.

2. The basics of the Christian Faith. May brings our focus to the 5th basic – prayer. Prayer is our lifeline to God. We need to form the habit of starting each day with prayer and then praying throughout the day. Prayerfully the great foundational Scriptures below can help undergird your faith, develop your personal growth as well as enable your witnessing and personal worship. Once again, why not find a new or young Christian to mentor & bring them along this journey.

John 16:24 Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.

Matt 7:7 Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Jeremiah 33:3 'Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

1 John 3:21-22 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;²² and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

1 John 5:14-15 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

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.

May 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 - 4th - May 2026

Kerry Knowles

Join with men of Iron Sharpens Iron as we study Paul's letter to the Romans. 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
philliphunter38@gmail.com

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

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

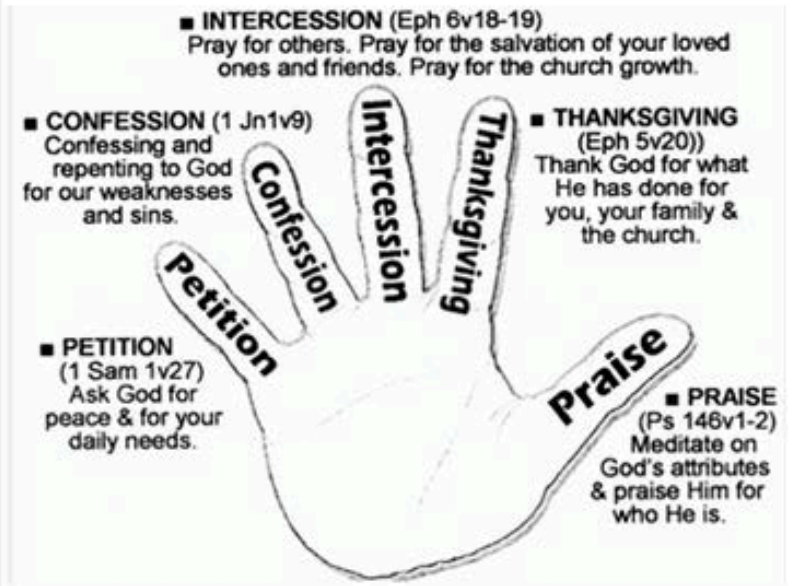
Integritas

Prayer Enrichment Page

Innovative prayer— this page and the next have been designed back-to-back so that you can remove them as a single page and place it in your Bible, use it with your daily devotionals, copy it and share it with friends, even use it as a witnessing tract.

A PRAYER MODEL

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.	Adoration and Worship
Your kingdom come.	Allegiance
Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.	Submission and Thanksgiving
Give us this day our daily bread,	Petition and Provision
And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.	Confession and Forgiveness
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*	Watchfulness and Deliverance



Many of us struggle to know how to approach God in prayer. Tired of praying but not knowing what to say? Having trouble focusing? Want to expand your means and areas of prayer? Are you looking for a better way to help you pray more? Most of us know the Lord's pray as a model. But are we looking for a variety? Or, are we looking for changes that help us pray? Is there a way we can pray more effectively and maybe more completely? Are you looking for a way to focus your prayer?

Consider reading the Scriptures. The Psalms are full of prayers. The Old Testament is full of prayers by the prophets. Many books of prayers & devotionals have been written. Find a good one and use it. Pray with a partner who's prayer life inspires you, too. Seek the Holy Spirit.

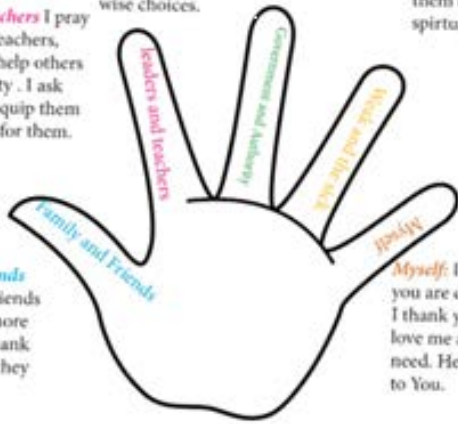


A doration C onfession T hanksgiving S upplication	H onor God with praise E xamine your life A sk for help/needs R quests for others T hank God
P raise R epent A sk Y ield	P raise A cknowledge S upplication T hanksgiving

Government and Authority I pray for our government and those who are in authority. Please help them have wisdom and help them make wise choices.

Weak and the sick I pray for those who are weak or sick. I ask that You would heal them both physically and spiritually.

Leaders and Teachers I pray for the leaders, teachers, and those who help others in our community. I ask that you would equip them and provide rest for them.



Family and Friends I pray that my friends and family see more of God's love. Thank you for the way they love me so well.

Myself: I thank you for all you are doing in my life Lord. I thank you for the way you love me and provide all that I need. Help me to grow closer to You.

7 ways to focus your prayer life by Dr Lawless at the 2022 SBCV Convention (with a few more added)

1. Establish a different prayer focus for each day of the week – SMTWTFS (see box below)
2. Create time - consciously seek breaks for purposeful prayer.
3. ACTS method – Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. Name them as you pray.
4. Bulletin Praying – use your church bulletin as a prayer guide for ministry, scheduled & upcoming events & people named there.
5. Conversational devotions. Talk to God. Listen. Write out prayers as if a letter written to God.
6. Each day, pick someone to lift in prayer throughout the day.
7. Pray all day long. Have an attitude of prayer. **pray without ceasing, 1 Thes 5:17**
8. Find a group of people to teach to pray or to start a prayer group.
9. Never give up! Widow before the judge in **Luke 18** who continued to ask for her need.
10. When asked to pray, do it then, or stop to make a note for later. Then, let them know you prayed. Record answers.
11. Teach a child to pray. Use the aids on this page. Help them develop a prayer time.
12. Find a daily devotional or prayer book.
13. Memorize a Scripture each week and make it your meditation focus during prayer.
14. When you wake up in the night, ask God who needs prayer. Let Him lead you.
15. ALWAYS remember that Jesus is intervening in prayer for you before the throne of God.

Praying thru the Days of the week

Sunday – Salvation—pray for those you know who don't know Jesus as Lord & Savior!

Monday—Missionaries—seek out names

Tuesday—Tasks you have or need help with

Wednesday—Workers—church staff/ministries

Thursday—Thanksgiving—abundant gratitude

Friday—Family— lift them up in love

Saturday—Saints—spiritually and health



Rod Montgomery

Acts 1:8 Missions Ministry

On Missions for God...

Blessings once more, fellow missionaries. It is great to interact with each of you one more time. We hope that as you have been going about your days and weeks, that you have been seizing the moments to speak Jesus to someone. We pray that over the last several weeks and months that as you have heard of the volunteer needs of our church you have prayed over and committed to serving God's kingdom in some capacity. For surrender to God's calling and working in the fields, where the harvest is plenty...is what missionary work is all about. It does not take much, just a desire to honor and glorify God's name and message.

We know that there are many of you who want to get involved, but you just do not know where to start. So, we are going to walk you through that over the next couple of articles. Our hope is that as we reveal how simple it is to get started on missionary efforts, great and small, that you will feel more compelled to serve. And if you are compelled to go and do, you might just bring a family member, a friend, or a neighbor along with you. That would be truly blessing the efforts of our church and having a grand impact on the spreading of God's words.

We are going to start with the most challenging missionary effort to prepare for undertaking, the overseas mission's trip. First, we will need you to pray to God for wisdom and discernment about traveling to El Salvador. We want you to know that Jon White is very familiar with the region, the churches, and the pastors that you will be interacting with during your trip. We want you to be assured that you do not have to possess any special talents or abilities in order to go, just a willingness to serve.

Next, we will have you to consider the cost that is associated with the trip. Part of the cost is giving of your time. The trip covers a two-week period of time, June 27th through July 11th. You are not obligated to go for the full two weeks. You can go the first week or second week, but we would be thrilled if you could go for both weeks. Another cost is associated with the actual expense of the trip. The projected cost for the trip right now is approximately \$1,700. This covers airfare, lodging, and some incidentals. We try to mention this early and often, as it might take a bit of time to produce that amount of money. However, we strongly believe that if God wants you on this trip, He will provide the way and means for you to go on this trip. He will work this out, just move in faith.

Following those two considerations, there is always the need to address travel papers. It is strongly recommended that everyone traveling have their "real-id" in addition to having a valid hard-copy passport. If you do not have a "real-id" that is an issue to address at your local DMV. Likewise, if you do not have a hard-copy passport, this is a process that takes a little bit of time, but it can be done before this trip is set to go. You just need to start working on that now, without any further delay.

The last couple of things to consider in preparation for the El Salvador trip is what to bring and what to be prepared to do, once you are on the mission's field. Regarding clothes, bring lightweight, but durable clothing. It can and will be hot at times, so it is best to be comfortable. Bring durable footwear, there will be lots of walking and standing and you need to have shoes that are good for that. It is also wise to bring some snacks and reasonably sized comfort items, as your days will be long, but rewarding as you see the impact that you have each and every day. The last thing to be sure that you bring with you on this mission's trip is a heart for God's people, regardless of how they look, sound, or act. Every person you will encounter, is a created being made in God's likeness. We

do not always know their situation or the nature of their circumstances, but we are called to show them love and to share the good news of Jesus Christ, in whatever form we have available to us.

While we did not cover everything that will be needed, we did give you some things to work on. We pray that you will now start the process of getting prepared for this endeavor. We trust that you will start in prayer with God and family. We pray that if you have any questions, that you will reach out. And we pray that you, along with many others, will take the next steps towards being On Missions for God.

And how can anyone
PREACH
unless they are
SENT?
As it is written:
How Beautiful
are the feet
of those who bring
Good News!
Romans 10:15 NIV.

Jon White & Sergio "Woody" Wooden

Jon White, Chairperson
Foreign/International Mission's Lead
Charliebass69@yahoo.com

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



The Way Forward: What our Logo Means

Every symbol tells a story. The *The Way Forward* logo isn't just a design – it's a visual summary of what we believe, what we teach, and what we are pursuing together. At the center of everything is a simple truth:

God is leading. The question is whether we will follow.

The Cross

At the center stands the cross. This is where everything begins.

The way forward is not built on self-improvement, effort, or direction – it is built on the finished work of Jesus Christ. His obedience, His sacrifice, and His victory over sin and death are the foundation for everything we do.

'For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified'
– 1 Corinthians 2:2

Our path is not around the cross. It is not beyond the cross. It is through the cross.

'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.' – Luke 9:23

There is no way forward apart from Him.

The Red Arrow

Running through the cross is a red arrow, pointing forward. It represents movement, direction, and decision.

Following Jesus is not passive. It requires obedience. It requires stepping forward – even when it's costly.

The arrow passing through the cross reminds us: ***The only true way forward is through Christ.*** And the red is not just a symbol – it is a declaration. It points to the blood of Jesus Christ.

'When I see the blood, I will pass over you.' – Exodus 12:13

Jesus is the fulfillment of the promise – the true and better Lamb whose sacrifice was not partial, but complete.

'It is finished' – John 19:30

So when we say the path is marked by sacrifice, we mean this: The way forward is not built on our efforts – it is secured by his blood.

The Word

Beneath the cross is the open Word of God. This is our foundation. We do not define our own direction. We don't follow culture, feelings, or convenience. We are shaped, corrected, and guided by Scripture.

'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path' - Psalms 119:105

God is not silent. He has spoken - and continues to lead through His Word.

The Light

Radiating behind the cross is light. This represents revelation and clarity. God is not hiding His will. He illuminates the path for those who seek Him.

'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness' - John 8:12

The Name: The Way Forward

At the top, the name itself is a declaration. There is a way forward. Not one we create - but one God has already established.

'I am the way, the truth, and the life' - John 14:4

From the very beginning, the earliest followers of Jesus were simply known as 'the Way'

'... if he found any belonging to the Way' - Acts 9:2

It wasn't just what they believed - it's how they lived. A people moving forward in obedience, following where Christ leads. The same calling remains for us today.

SOLI DEO GLORIA

Glory to God Alone

Everything comes back to this. Not our growth. Not our understanding. Not our effort. Every step forward, every life transformed, every victory belongs to God alone.

'So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God'

- 1 Corinthians 10:31

This logo is not just something we use - it's something we live. It reminds us:

The way forward begins at the cross

The path forward is shaped by God's word

The journey forward requires obedience

The purpose of it all is the Glory of God.

As we continue together, this remains the question in front of each of us:

Will we follow where he leads?

- The Way Forward

Nate Ewoldt
(909) 855-2881
nathaniel.ewoldt@gmail.com

Matt Sarkissian
(540) 273-5549
matt.sarkissian@gmail.com





May 2026

RISE-UP Children's Ministry

Jenny Forrester

UPCOMING

May:

May 3 @ Noon
VBS Planning meeting & Lunch

May 6 @ 5pm
VBS Prep Night
5:00pm-6:30pm

May 10:
Mother's Day

May 13 @ 6pm
VBS Prep Night &
Gospel Workshop

May 20 @ 6pm
VBS Prep Night &
Teacher Training

May 27 @ 6pm
VBS Prep Night &
Volunteer Training
(All Youth)

***June 10 @ 6pm**
VBS - CPT Training

CHILDREN'S CHURCH MEMORY VERSES

Genesis 12:1-2

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing."

(Pre-k & Kindergarten & 1st-5th)

Hebrews 11:1 & 6

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.

(1st grade through 5th grade)



AWANA AWARDS

On April 29, we hosted our AWANA Awards Night & Celebration to honor our AWANA clubbers.

Many of our clubbers finished books this year! We had 8 Sparky Awards meaning 8 clubbers completed all of the Sparks books.

For Truth & Training, we had 1 Timothy Award. This clubber finished all 4 T&T books in 3 years.





May 2026

RISE-UP Children's Ministry



Jenny Forrester

UPCOMING

June 9th & 11th

9am-2pm

5pm-8pm

VBS Decorating

June 12th & 13th

9am-1pm

VBS Decorating

June 14th - 18th

Evening VBS

6pm-8:30pm

June 15th - 19th

Morning VBS

9am-Noon

June 19th @ 6pm

VBS Family

Showcase

June 20th @ 10am

VBS Volunteer

Appreciation Brunch

& Room Tear Down

June 21st

Father's Day

VBS Sunday

& Stage Tear Down

VBS VOLUNTEER NEEDS:

RBC Members to step into teaching roles for VBS

- Memory verse (AM), missions (AM), & music (PM)
- Craft & Science (PM)
- Pre-primary Bible (Both)
- Pre-primary Craft & Science (Both)
- Pre-primary Exploration Station (PM)
- Pre-primary Director (Both)

Other areas:

- Decorating Lead
- Snacks Assistants & Leads
- Small Group Leaders
- Small Group Assistants
- Childcare
- Volunteer Food
- Admin
- Prayer Coordinator
- A/V Coordinator
- So many other areas available...

Other areas:

- Counselors
- Set-Up & Tear Down
- Pre-Primary Small Group Leaders
- Pre-Primary Assistants
- Follow-Up Team
- Admin Prep Team
- Greeters
- Prayer Team
- A/V Assistants



DONATIONS:

All non-food donations need to be turned in to the office or to Jenny Forrester no later than April 29th.

Many of these items will be used for crafts and science and will be prepped on May 6th.

All non-perishable food donations need to be turned in by May 31st.



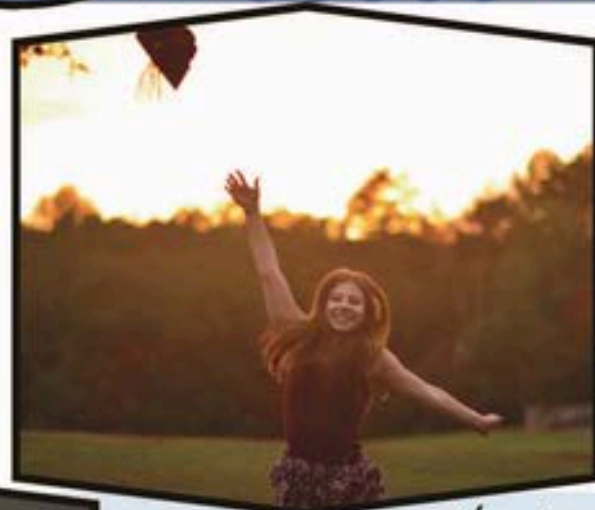
Thank you

May 2026

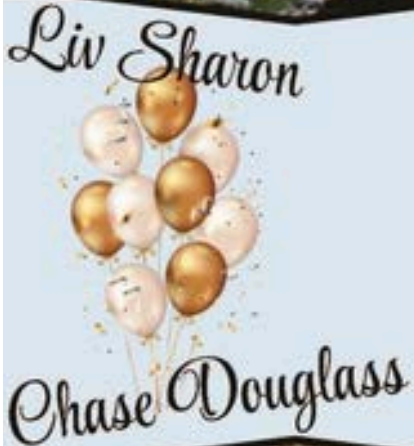
RISE-UP Homeschool Ministry Congratulations



Liv Sharon



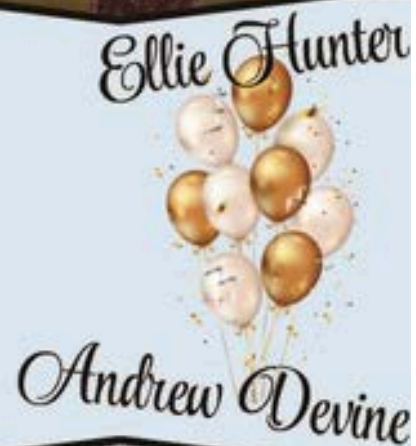
Ellie Hunter



Chase Douglass



Johnathan
Mayers



Andrew Devine



Rise-Up
Homeschool Ministry
held a graduation
ceremony in April to
celebrate RUHM's
First Class of Graduates!



Youth Ministry

Last month, we had the privilege of celebrating the graduation of several students that are involved with our church, and with the homeschool ministry. Here is some of what we shared with them during the course of that celebration.

In Luke 9:23–25, Jesus gives a call that is profoundly challenging: “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” These words invite us to examine what it truly means to follow Christ—not as a one-time decision, but as an ongoing, daily act of trust and obedience.

It’s easy to misunderstand what it means to deny ourselves. John Stott puts it this way: “To deny ourselves is to behave towards ourselves the same way that Peter behaved towards Jesus when he denied Him three times. He disowned Him, repudiated Him, turned his back on Him. Self-denial is not denying to ourselves luxuries such as chocolates, cakes, cigarettes, and cocktails (though it may include this). Self-denial is actually denying or disowning ourselves, renouncing our supposed right to go our own way. It is turning away from the idolatry of self-centeredness.” It is a complete reorientation of the heart. We no longer have the final word. Jesus does.

This stands in stark contrast to the message of our culture. The world urges us to follow our hearts, define our own truth, and pursue whatever brings happiness. It equates freedom with self-expression and autonomy. But Jesus warns that this is a path that ends in destruction, and judgment.

Instead, Jesus calls us to take up our cross – a symbol of torture, and execution. And He invites us to do it daily – to choose, again and again, to lay down our will and follow Him, even when it is difficult or costly. Following Jesus is not a past event that we can look point back to. It is something we live out moment by moment, every single day.

Jesus continues: “Whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.” When we cling tightly to comfort, control, and self-preservation, it may yield a temporary satisfaction, but we will invariably miss out on the abundant life God intends for us. Conversely, when we entrust our lives to Christ, and follow Him in costly discipleship, we discover a joy that is unshakable.

Of course, when Jesus called us to deny ourselves, and take up our cross and follow Him, He is not calling us to anything that He Himself has not already done! Jesus denied Himself. Jesus took up His cross. Jesus gave us His life – willingly, for us. Jesus, through His life, and death, and resurrection, has made a way for us to be forgiven, and restored, and reconciled to God.

Following Jesus is not easy. He never said it would be.

But it is worth it.

Pastor Ben LoPresti

April Birthdays

May 1

Payton Micke
Maria Isabel Cruz-Riveria

May 3

Pastor Jonathan James
Ashley Simms

May 4

Daniel Ferguson
Patience Ngalla

May 7

Brenna Fox
Jasmine Sarkissian

May 9

Samantha Blake
Alex Clough
Cori Hughes

May 10

Laura Libby
Tammy Snyder

May 11

Debbie Bradman

May 14

Sonia Stevens

May 15

Callie Knight
Mary Studebaker

May 16

Jean Gilbert
Raymond Kerr

May 17

Kinleigh Berninghausen

May 18

Chandler Gayle

May 19

MiraBella Ferraez
Aidan Kuczka
Lily Shelton
Jamie Shingler

May 20

Ella Okpalaeze

May 21

William Mehochko

May 22

Noah Blake

May 23

Nancy Anderson

May 24

Jo Embrey

May 26

Reagan Phillips
Katie Taylor

May 27

Jacob Anderson
Norma Brown

May 28

Dee McDaniel

Hughes Home Riverhouse

Carolyn Sloat

May 1

Helen Gill

May 3

Bernadette Anastasi

May 5

Elsie Cox

May 17

Jon Ingle

May 23

Eva Brooks

May 26

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-April 20

Offerings

GENERAL FUND

DESIGNATED FUND

EXPENSES

Cemetery Fund

UPKEEP

In Christian Sympathy

to Gladys Hodgson and family
after the loss of Karl Hodgson

Average Attendance

SUNDAY EVENTS

464

WEDNESDAY EVENTS

217

OTHER WEEKLY EVENTS

324

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
305	Truth Seekers	Vacant	Lifeway Bible Studies for Life	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
306	Season Saints	P. Mentee & M. Craiger	Lifeway Bible Studies for Life	Seniors
Chapel	Young Adults	M. Sarkissian & N. Ewoldt	Life Change Bible Studies	Young Adults
Chapel C-3	Apologetics: Ready to Share	C. Hickcox	Boldly Defending Your Faith with Grace	All Ages

Contact Us

Associate Pastor of Worship
Chuck Hite
(540) 659-4588 ext. 5
(540) 429-4291
worship@rbcstafford.org

Director of Refuge Ministry
Sergio Wooden
(540) 602-7986 ext. 1
(207) 632-8876
counseling@rbcstafford.org

Senior Pastor
Dr. Richard Harrell
(540) 659-4588 ext. 3
(540) 484-3948
docharrell@gmail.com

Associate Pastor of Students
Ben LoPresti
(540) 659-4588 ext. 4
students@rbcstafford.org

Director of Media and Communication
Jessica Kelley
(540) 659-4588
media@rbcstafford.org

Financial Ministry Assistant
Tammy Snyder
(540) 659-4588 ext. 7
bookkeeper@rbcstafford.org

Children's Ministry Director
Jenny Forrester
(540) 659-4588 ext. 6
children@rbcstafford.org

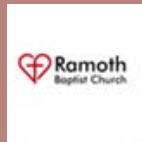
Administrative Assistant
Kati Justice
(540) 659-4588 ext. 2
admin@rbcstafford.org

Associate Counselor
Kim Colson
(540) 602-7986 ext. 2
counseling2@rbcstafford.org

Ways to Give

Online: rbcstafford.org

Download our App:



Mail: 478 Ramoith Church Road,
Stafford, VA 22554