

The Beacon



Easter Services

Join us at 6:30AM for Sunrise services. "Is He Worthy" choir presentation will be performed at 9:00AM and 10:30AM.



Easter Monday

Offices are closed on Easter Monday, April 6, 2026.

Worship Schedule

Wednesdays

5:00PM Wednesday Night Dinner
6:00PM AWANA Clubs
6:30PM Adult Bible Study
6:30PM Worship Choir Rehearsal
7:30PM Worship Team Rehearsal

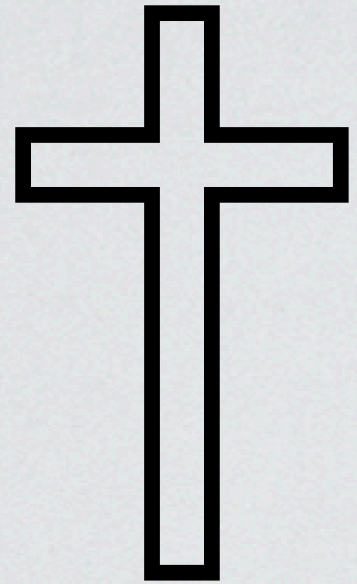
Sundays

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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Is He
Worthy

Good Friday Service

6:30PM

Walk-through 6:00PM

Easter Sunday Services

Sunrise Service 6:30AM

Breakfast 7:30AM

Sunday School & Choir Presentation 9:00AM and 10:30AM

Choir Presentation created by Russell Mauldin and Sue C. Smith
Arranged and Orchestrated by Russell Mauldin

Faithful Servants, Growing Together

One of the blessings of our church is the quiet, steady faithfulness of those who serve. Among them, our deacons have the privilege of supporting and caring for our church family in many ways.

We wanted to take a moment to share how the Lord is using the deacon ministry throughout the life of our church. By His grace, this ministry touches many areas—from teaching Sunday School and leading small groups, to walking alongside families in times of need, to serving on church committees. These are simply opportunities God has given for us to build one another up in Christ.

This reflects the pattern we see in Acts 6, where deacons were set apart to serve so that the church could flourish. That same calling continues today. Deacons are fellow servants—seeking to model faith, encourage others, and support the work God is doing in and through our church.

Across our church, you may see deacons:

- Investing in the next generation through teaching and discipleship
 - Sunday School teachers
 - Every Man a Warrior group facilitators
 - Good News Club leaders
 - AWANA Club leaders
- Walking alongside widows and widowers with care, encouragement, and prayer
- Serving within church leadership by supporting various ministry teams and committees
- Helping connect needs with resources through the Benevolence Ministry

It is a privilege to serve alongside these men who desire to love the Lord and care for others. We are grateful for how God continues to work through His people as we grow together in faith.

Looking Ahead: A New Season of Ministry

As we celebrate what God is doing through faithful service, we also look forward with great anticipation to what He is about to do next.

In the coming weeks, we will gather for the groundbreaking ceremony of our new Family Life Center—a milestone moment in the life of our church. This is more than a construction project; it is a step of faith.

This new space will create opportunities for:

- Deeper fellowship and community connection
- Expanded ministry to children, students, and families
- Outreach that welcomes and serves our broader community
- A place where relationships are built and lives are changed

Moments like these remind us that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. Just as those before us laid foundations we now stand on, we have the privilege of preparing the way for future generations.

Join the Celebration

Stay tuned for our Family Life Center Groundbreak Ceremony! We encourage every member of our church family to be part of this special day. Come celebrate, pray, and give thanks for what God has done—and what He will continue to do.

Together, as servants and as a church family, we move forward in faith.

Tim Eicher, Deacon Chairman

Deacons of the Week April 5

Randy Colson (703) 864-9058
Shawn Blake (540) 226-2308

April 12

Tim Eicher (540) 907-1545
Nate Ewoldt (540) 273-5549

April 19

Sean Truax (770) 354-2514
Jon White (540) 623-6184

April 26

Jacob Nimeth (540) 408-3887
Joe Pearson (540) 940-1762

Bearing Our Cross: A Divine Appointment

Too often we say, "This is my cross to bear," when that particular cross comes to us from our own choosing or as the result of our own decisions. Yes, this may be a consequence of life decisions, but the call to bear our cross for Jesus is not an optional addition to the Christian life. It is, instead, a fundamental aspect of discipleship. It signifies a divine appointment to a life of surrender and purpose. This sacred calling is not chosen by human will but is divinely ordained, shaping believers into the image of Christ through suffering, sacrifice, and obedient perseverance. Understanding this divine appointment requires a deeper look into its nature, its demand for self-denial, and its ultimate promise of true life.

1. The Call to Discipleship

Jesus explicitly links bearing the cross with following Him, presenting it as an essential component of discipleship. Regardless of what you have heard about the pain-free and walk-in-the-park Christian Life, you must understand that being a Christian comes with the call to bear a cross for Christ. This is not merely an invitation but a divine summons to a life where personal desires and ambitions are submitted to God's will.

As Jesus said, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23 NIV). The phrase "must deny themselves" speaks to a complete reorientation of one's life. It is a daily decision to put aside our own agenda, our own comfort, and our own understanding, in favor of God's. This self-denial is not about self-hatred or asceticism, but about recognizing that our lives are no longer our own, having been bought with the precious blood of Christ (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). The cross, in this context, symbolizes the ultimate act of self-sacrifice and obedience, even unto death. For the disciple, this means an embrace of whatever suffering, hardship, or unpopularity may come as a result of following Christ. It is a divinely appointed path, one that God has set before us to conform us to His Son.

2. The Nature of the Cross

Bearing our cross often involves experiencing suffering and making sacrifices, not as punishment, but as a consequence of our identification with Jesus Christ in a fallen world. This suffering is not random but is part of God's sovereign plan to refine our faith and to use us for His glory. Our suffering brings growth in our faith and glory to our God.

Peter encourages believers, stating, "But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed" (1 Peter 4:13 NIV). This verse reveals a profound truth: our sufferings for Christ are a participation in His own. Just as Jesus endured immense suffering for the salvation of humanity, so too will His followers experience various forms of hardship. This can come to us as persecution, ridicule, loss, or simply the daily struggle against sin and temptation. These are not burdens we choose, but rather trials that God allows and uses for His purposes. The "cross" is therefore a symbol of this divinely appointed suffering and sacrifice, a path that leads to deeper intimacy with Christ and a greater understanding of His redemptive work. It is through these experiences that our faith is tested and proven genuine, and our reliance on God is strengthened. In other words, our cross draws us closer to our God.

3. The Promise of Life:

When we deny ourselves and take up our cross it leads not to a diminished life, but to a full and abundant life, a life found only in surrender to God's divine will.

Jesus teaches, "For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Me will save it" (Matthew 16:25 NIV). This profound statement illustrates the paradox of the Christian walk. In a world that often prizes self and personal gain, Jesus calls His followers to a radical

reversal of values. To "lose one's life for Me" is to surrender our goals, our comforts, and even our very lives to our Lord Jesus Christ. To surrender is not to forfeit joy or purpose, but to enter into true life, a life lived in communion with God and aligned with His eternal will. The cross, therefore, is not merely a symbol of suffering, but also a gateway to eternal life and divine fulfillment. It is through the divinely appointed path of self-denial and sacrifice that Christians truly discover their identity and purpose in Christ. We experience a richness of life that far surpasses anything the world can offer.

Bearing our cross is a divinely appointed walk, a non-negotiable aspect of following Jesus. It is a call to daily self-denial, a participation in the sufferings of Christ, and ultimately, the path to discovering true life in Him. As Christians, we recognize that this journey is not of our own design, but an invitation from God to walk in deeper fellowship with His Son, transformed by the Spirit, and fully devoted to Him. Are you fully devoted? Are you walking in-step with Christ? Are you carrying a cross of His design and not one of your own, for the cross of His design draws us nearer to the God who loves us. Let us begin today to walk with Christ no matter the cost, to be His completely.

Pastor Chuck Hite

The Refuge Ministry

Greetings, one and all. It is great to know that our Lord and Savior, is risen. He is risen, indeed!! As we celebrate Easter and our Risen Savior, we have lots to be thankful for and lots to give appreciation for having been blessed by God. We have the blessings of knowing our salvation. We have the blessings of knowing where we will spend eternity. We have the incredible blessing of having a relationship with God Almighty, through His Son, Jesus Christ. And do you know what that means for us? It means that no matter what we are facing in our world today, we can have hope and it is a hope that is founded on God's promises and oath to all of us.

The word "hope," depending on your translation, appears in the Bible between 130 to 180 times. Each time is more important or more powerful than the countless idioms that we have heard throughout our lifetimes. We are all familiar with the ones that I am referring to; the ones that we hear all the time. Here are a few that might ring a bell:

"You've got to see the light at the end of the tunnel."

"Every cloud has a silver lining."

"Look at the bright side of things, it could have been worse."

"Keep your head up, things will eventually get better."

These all sound good at the moment, but what do they really offer? They are just vague phrases that provide us with some momentary comfort, encouragement, or even distraction. However, once the novelty of the phrase has worn off, what do we have? In most cases we will have nothing of consequence. What we really need in moments when life has become difficult is really genuine "hope." A hope that comes from God, who is all mighty and all capable. A hope that is greater than our understanding or our abilities to do. We need a "hope" that is unexplainable and undeniable at the same time. That kind of hope we can find over and over again in God's word. Remember, its there some 130 to 180 times.

This hope that I speak of covers all aspects of life. Are you struggling in life right now? Have you lost your way, have you become overwhelmed by decisions and circumstances that seem out of your control? Then how about you consider the words of Romans 15:13 which says, "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit".

Are you in a season of grief, despair, trauma or loss? Are you trying to make sense of things that just do not add up? Are you at a place where you have thrown your hands up and cried out because you just do not know what to do? Psalms 62:5-6 might be what you need as it declares, For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. ⁶ He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

Maybe you just need some reassurance about the life God has promised you. You might have been listening to the world too long to remember what God has proclaimed for you and has spoken for your good. You may even be in a place of unbelief, because things are taking longer than you expected, to come together for your good. But take heart, for Jeremiah 29: 11 addresses this like so, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Perhaps, we all might need the words of Lamentations 3:22-26 which reminds us, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

Whatever your specific situation or circumstance, God is where you can find your greatest hope. If you need some assistance finding that hope or remembering God's promises, we at the Refuge Ministry Center are here for you or anyone that you know, who is in need of help. We are in the ministry of hope, help, and healing. Contact us at 540-602-7986 or via email at counseling@rbcstafford.org or counseling2@rbcstafford.org. Our office is open Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to noon. May the hope of the Lord grow in you with each passing day.

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 April 14th and 28th at 1:00PM in Rm 306.

Women's Ministry

Annie Armstrong was born on a hot summer day in Baltimore, Maryland. She came from a long line of prominent Baptists in Baltimore; her great-great-great-grandfather, Henry Sater, founded the first Baptist Church in Maryland in 1742. Her great-great-great-grandmother, Dorcas Towson Sater, laid the cornerstone, a rare honor for women at the time.

Annie was raised in the church her ancestor had founded, but she did not commit her life to Christ until adulthood. She loved being active, which seemed to her a contradiction to heaven and Christianity as a place of rest. She did not want to be like her mother, spending all her time at quiet prayer groups. She remembered spending her time as a child visiting the harbor, where it seemed like the whole world was coming to America.

In December of 1870, Annie heard her pastor say, "What the Christian has is not peace from trouble, but peace in the midst of trouble." That was exactly what Annie needed to hear. That was exactly what she wanted. She stepped out of her pew and committed her life to Christ at 20 years old.

Shortly thereafter, Annie and her family became founding members at the new Eutaw Place Church that was closer to where they lived. Annie taught the Sunday School class for children up to age twelve. She volunteered at the Home for the Friendless – the local orphanage. She and several friends started a mission at the poorhouse in Bayview. Annie was constantly active in service to the Lord.

She spent several years praying for and meeting those who were called as foreign missionaries, but she never felt any indication from God telling her to go herself. God had plenty of work for Annie to do in the United States.



In May of 1882, women from several churches voted to form the Woman's Baptist Home Mission Society of Maryland, which involved women in supporting the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Home Mission Board catered to domestic missions work, as opposed to the Foreign Mission Board, which focused on missions overseas. Today, these groups are known as the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and the International Mission Board (IMB).

Annie was elected as the Maryland Society's first president. She presided over meetings, guided new projects, and continued trying to interest other churches in forming mission societies. She wrote letters to churches all over Maryland about the new group of women interested in missions. Instead of taking holidays, she spent her summers traveling around Maryland to talk to the women of various churches in person to spread the word.

In 1888, after several years of debate, the Southern Baptist Convention elected to form the Women's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, as a nationwide society of women focused on missions. Annie was elected as the first corresponding secretary. She spent much of her time writing letters to women across the country and speaking to groups closer to home.

One of her first major projects began after a discussion with the secretary of the Foreign Mission Board. In order to support foreign missions, Annie proposed that there should be a week of prayer and a Christmas offering solely focused on foreign missions. Specifically, the offering should be





focused on sending women workers to join Lottie Moon in China.

Annie wanted every Baptist woman in the South to know about it, so that they had the opportunity to pray and give. The Women’s Missionary Union had no clerk and no typewriter. Annie wrote all the letters by hand, determined to make sure that the offering was sufficient. She prepared a program for a week of prayer and sent it to 1,206 societies. She also sent out copies of Lottie Moon’s letter describing the conditions in China. She mailed out 29,075 envelopes to

hold the offerings. The goal was to send two missionaries to North China. The offering was enough to send three.

The Christmas offering was eventually (at Annie’s suggestion) named for Lottie Moon, and continues under that name today.

That was just the start. Over eighteen years as the corresponding secretary for the Women’s Missionary Union, Annie helped guide multiple projects. The Union started schools for those in need across America. They sent out missionaries at home and abroad. They organized the children to raise money to buy immigrants Bibles in their own language. Annie traveled across the country to see the work being done and what the needs were. She continued writing letters as well. One year, she wrote more than eighteen thousand letters, for an average of fifty letters a day! In everything she did, she paid her own way. The Women’s Missionary Union voted to pay her a salary for her efforts, but Annie refused it, as she felt all the money they raised was meant for missions.



Annie resigned from the Women’s Missionary Union in 1905 and returned home to Baltimore, where she continued her ministry work on a smaller scale. She still taught Sunday school to the children and volunteered at the Home of the Friendless and the poorhouse at Bayview. She very rarely attended meetings for the Missionary Union after her resignation.

In 1895, Annie had helped to organize a week of self-denial as a time for praying for and giving to home missions. In honor of Annie Armstrong and the work she had done, the Women’s Missionary Union renamed the offering after Annie Armstrong in 1934. We continue giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering to this day.

Annie Armstrong died on December 28, 1938, more than fifty years after establishing the Women’s Missionary Union. Her tombstone reads, “She hath done what she could.”

“The future lies before us all...shall it only be a slight advance upon what we usually do? Ought it not be a bound, a leap forward, to altitudes of endeavor and success undreamed of before?”

~ Annie Armstrong

Tara Truax

Upcoming Events:

Easter Sunday, Apr 5th (next one May 3rd): 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!



Tuesday, Apr 7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th: 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. Contact Lidia Lungoccia for more (540-840-5729).



Sat, Apr 11th (May 16th): 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 IMGNIlife, 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!

Tues, May 15th: FIT Workshop – Watercolor Canvas 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!

Register on the Lifeway website

Sat, April 17th-18th: In the Word with Jen Wilkin

Location: London Bridge Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, VA

Time: Friday, 6:00-9:00pm & Saturday (9:00am-1:00pm)

Register: <https://www.lifeway.com/en/events/in-the-word/virginia-beach>

Save the Date!

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

More information coming soon!

Needs and Thank You's!



Thank you to everyone that helped with the Mission's Tea on March 14th! We had over 100 ladies in attendance, and 15 wonderful male servers from our youth and church body! Seventeen ladies decorated beautiful tables to capture our America the Beautiful theme, as we celebrate America's 250th Birthday this year. Our mission's focus was on Annie Armstrong, represented by Tara Truax, who did a wonderful job retelling Annie's story and the impact she has made on the mission field. We ended the day with our church planter friend, Annie Garman, who shared how the Annie Armstrong Easter offering impacts our church planters right here in Northern VA and how we can partner with church planters going forward. Lastly, thank you to our church family that generously provided over 50 auction items raising over \$1300 for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. May God use it all to spread the gospel!

Needs:

We need help with the Easter Continental Breakfast. We are looking for help on Saturday, April 4th at 9:00 am (1-2 hours), and Sunday, April 5th 6:00am-8:45am. Please let us know if you are available to assist in the kitchen.

We have interest in having a Women's Daytime Bible Study, if you are interested in attending please let us know.

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



Tips for Traveling with Kids

Planning Ahead

Choose Family-Friendly Destinations: Opt for places that cater to families, such as parks, beaches, or cities with kid-friendly attractions.

Check Safety & Age Considerations: Ensure the destination is safe & suitable for your children's ages.

Create a Flexible Itinerary: Allow for downtime and be ready to adjust plans based on your kids' needs.

Packing Essentials

Pack Light: Bring only the essentials to make moving around easier.

Include Snacks & Activities: Keep kids entertained with snacks, books, or games during the journey.

Bring Comfort Items: Familiar toys or blankets can help ease anxiety during travel.

During the Journey

Engage Kids in Planning: Involve them in choosing activities or destinations to make them feel included.

Schedule Breaks: Plan for regular stops to let kids stretch and play, which can help reduce restlessness.

Be Flexible with Meals: Sometimes, fast food can be a convenient option that keeps kids happy.

Managing Expectations

Balance Activities: Mix adult-oriented activities with kid-friendly ones to keep everyone satisfied.

Prepare for Disruptions: Understand that travel can be unpredictable, and be ready to adapt to changes.

Be a Missionary

Find a focal point, event, or highlight that speaks to your family faith.

Maintain your family devotions and prayer.

Share your testimony. Show your kids how to Speak Jesus to others along the way.

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.

Apr 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 - 6th - April 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

The Veracity of Prophecy on Resurrection Sunday

Why can we rely on prophecy to guide us to the Messiah?

At times we may struggle helping unbelievers understand the veracity of Scripture and the authenticity of Jesus as the prophesied Messiah. Written centuries before His birth, the book of **Isaiah** contains many clear prophecies about Jesus Christ. The Old Testament is filled with dozens of specific messianic prophecies miraculously fulfilled hundreds of years later, then validated in the New Testament. Here are some of the most significant along with some others affirming Jesus as the Messiah that will help equip you to provide solid evidence of God's truth for man.

7th-century BC prophet Micah foretold that Christ would be born in Bethlehem (**Micah 5:2**). Christ's parents, Mary and Joseph, lived in Nazareth, far from Bethlehem. God used a Roman taxation census to send Jesus's family to the town of His birth. Micah accurately prophesied this event over 600 years before it occurred. Jesus could not have manipulated these events, nor could Luke, who recorded its fulfillment.

PROPHECIES ABOUT HIS LIFE:

† Born of a virgin **Isa 7:14** — *“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”* Fulfilled **Matt 1:18**

† Born in the small town of Bethlehem **Micah 5:2** *“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.”* Fulfilled **Matt 2:1**

† Divine Messiah. **Isa. 9:6–7** *“For to us a child is born and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

† Healed the blind, deaf, lame, and mute. **Isa 35:5–6** Fulfilled — **Matt 11:5**)

PROPHECIES ABOUT HIS SACRIFICIAL DEATH:

† Messiah's suffering & humiliation, **Isa 50:6** — *“I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard...”* Fulfilled **Mark 14:65**

† He was crucified with sinners — **Isa 53:12** Fulfilled — **Matt 27:38**

† He was buried with the rich — **Isa 53:9** Fulfilled — **Matt 27:57–60**

† **Isa 53** — The Suffering Servant: a detailed prophecy of Christ's rejection, suffering, sacrificial death for our sins, and ultimate victory.

PROPHECIES ABOUT HIS VICTORY OVER DEATH:

† His resurrection from the dead (**Psalms 16:10** Fulfilled — **Mark 16:6**)

† His ascension into heaven (**Psalms 68:18** Fulfilled — **Mark 16:19** †

His exaltation at God's right hand (**Psalms 110:1** Fulfilled — **1 Peter 3:22**.)

These prophecies were fulfilled in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, confirming the Bible's divine inspiration and the truth of the gospel.

More than sixty fulfilled Messianic prophecies like this validate the Bible as the Word of God.

HE IS RISEN † HE IS RISEN INDEED

Rod Montgomery

On Missions for God...

Are you ready to “spring” into a missionary effort? Are you ready to heed the call that all believers have been directed to be a part of doing? Are you ready to speak Jesus and make the Gospel known to all? Are you worried about where to go or what to do? Well, you are in luck, because we have an answer for each of those...but you will have to read the entire article to reap all the benefits.

First, are you ready for to venture into a missionary effort? We will have you say “yes” because you have heard of or seen a particular need from our church. Knowing is part of the answer when we talk about missionary efforts. We also, know that you have been praying and God has surely laid it on your heart to do something. Which leads us to the next question.

Are you ready to heed the call that God has placed on you? Let us be reminded that the call originally went out as a command (and it still is, by the way) in **Matthew 28:19-20**, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” This command is one that we will have to give an account for, whether we have moved in it by faith or neglected it out of reservation. The opportunities are boundless; you just need to move in faith. This leads us to the very next question.

Are you ready to speak Jesus? Are you ready to make the Gospel known? We are challenged each week by Dr. Richard as we leave the church on Sunday, to speak Jesus. This is a charge we have each and every day. Sometimes it is easy, other times it is difficult; regardless, it is still necessary. Maybe you are a talker or maybe you are not; just remember that sometimes our actions speak louder than our words. When you serve on missions, your actions of love, compassion, patience, and understanding are sometimes the greatest way to show someone God and how He is with us and longs to have a great relationship with us. Now, onto the last question....are you worried about where to go and what to do?

Well, to the question above...there are lots of opportunities available as you read this article. Every week, there is a need for help at our church sponsored Pantry that distributes food on Tuesday mornings. Every week, at five different schools in Stafford County, the Good News Clubs are sharing the Gospel with elementary aged students. We are currently looking for lots of volunteers to be a part of the Vacation Bible School that will take place this summer at our church. And of course, we have our summer mission’s trip to El Salvador, and we have leads of trips in nearby states as well.

So...you have been asked questions and provided answers. Are you now ready to be on missions for God? How can we help you connect to the missionary effort that best suits you? Are there other concerns that you have about being a part of the missions? You are in luck, again. We are here to help you get on missions and to serve the Lord. Just reach out to us and we will get you moving in the right direction. So, is there anything else...holding you back? If not...let’s “spring” into action and make the Gospel heard.

Jon White & Sergio “Woody” Wooden

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

Prime Timers Ministry

Luncheon

April 16, 2026

12PM

Fellowship Hall

Theme:

Higher Ground

Menu:

Meatball Subs

Please Bring Sides and/or Desserts

Host/Hostess:

Linda Buckles

Decorator:

Linda Rochefort

Guest Speaker/ Testimony:

Margaret Craiger

Singing Every Month



April 2026

RISE-UP Children's Ministry



Jenny Forrester

UPCOMING

April:

3: Good Friday

5: Easter Sunday

8: AWANA ~
Face Paint Night

9: RUHM

12: VBS Planning
Meeting

14: RUHM Grad
Night

15: AWANA
Store

16: RUHM

22: Quarterly
Business
Meeting

29: AWANA
Awards Night

CHILDREN'S CHURCH MEMORY VERSES BEGINNING 4-12

Genesis 12:1-2

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go . . . 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)

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 GRAND PRIX

On March 8, our church hosted the AWANA Grand Prix for our AWANA Club and church members. We had 39 cars entered into the event. We had roughly 119 in attendance. It was a great event!

(Pictured right: a club member with her car & trophy)





April 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)

Hebrews 11:1-3

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.



SEASONS CHANGE

March has come and gone.
April has just begun.
Grass and leaves are turning green.
Spring has sprung!
Much to do, much to do!
Lord, let me just sit with you!



April 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)
- Games Lead (Both)
- Pre-primary Bible (Both)
- Pre-primary Craft & Science (Both)
- Pre-primary Exploration Station (PM)

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

RBC Student Ministry

By God's grace, this has been a steady and encouraging season in our student ministry. Our aim each week is simple and deliberate: to gather around God's Word, trusting that He uses the ordinary means of grace—especially the faithful preaching and teaching of Scripture—to save sinners and sanctify His people.

For the past several weeks, we have been working verse by verse through the book of Philippians. Our intention is to let the text set the agenda, and to help students see how God speaks through His Word and how every passage ultimately points us to Christ. Our desire is to train students not only to know what the Bible says, but to learn how to read it, understand it, and live in light of it.

As we have studied Philippians, several key doctrines have come into focus.

We have considered the sovereignty of God. In a letter written from prison, we see clearly that Paul understands his circumstances not as random or ultimately controlled by man, but as governed by God's good purposes. This has helped students begin to see their own lives through the same lens—that God is not absent or passive, but actively ruling over all things for His glory and the good of His people.

We have emphasized the sufficiency of Christ in salvation. Again and again, we have returned to the truth that our standing before God is not based on our own righteousness, but on the righteousness of Christ received by faith. For students who are often tempted to measure themselves by performance—academically, socially, or even spiritually—this has been a needed and freeing reminder that Christ is enough.

We have sought to highlight the beauty and glory of God. Sound doctrine is not merely for right thinking, but for right worship. Our prayer is that as students come to know God more truly, they would also come to love Him more deeply—that their lives would be marked not only by knowledge, but by genuine devotion and delight.

Encouragingly, we are seeing students engage with these truths. Many are asking thoughtful questions, wrestling with difficult ideas, and applying what they are learning to their everyday lives. While spiritual growth is often gradual, these are meaningful signs that God is at work through His Word.

At the same time, we recognize that the student ministry is not separate from the life of the church, but an extension of it. Our desire is to see students increasingly integrated into the broader body—sitting under the regular preaching of the Word on Sundays, building relationships across generations, and understanding that the Christian life is meant to be lived in the context of a local church.

Alongside our regular gatherings, we have also had opportunities to spend time together through games, fun activities, and various events (bowling, skiing, etc.). These events help us to strengthen relationships, and foster a sense of community that supports our shared life in Christ.

As we look forward to this summer, we are getting excited for camp! This will be an invaluable opportunity to step away from the distractions of daily life and spend extended time in God's Word and in fellowship with one another. We are praying that the Lord would use this time to deepen understanding, strengthen faith, and draw students more firmly to Christ.

We invite you to pray with us. Pray that the Word of God would continue to bear fruit in the lives of our students. Pray that they would grow in repentance and faith, and that their lives would increasingly reflect the transforming power of the gospel. Pray also for our leaders—that we would be faithful stewards of the responsibility entrusted to us, teaching sound doctrine and shepherding with care.

Thank you for your continued support. It is a joy to labor together as a church, trusting that God is building His people through His Word.

Pastor Ben LoPresti

April Birthdays

April 3

Adonis Warren
Jackie Williams

April 4

Allison Cook

April 5

Jon White

April 6

Deborah Pickeral
Wyatt Pollok

April 7

Erin Lambe

April 9

Kristy Ferguson
April Ferraez

April 10

Glenn Sullivan

April 12

Lara Gleason

April 15

Jennifer Atkins
Alice Peoples
Zachary Rice

April 16

Kinsley Conners

April 19

Scott Musselman

April 20

Dan Mehochko

April 21

Selah Balsavich

April 23

Lou Buttgen

April 24

Stephanie Baltzelle
Trell Hudson

April 25

Robin Caldwell
Wendy Micke

April 26

Pastor Ben LoPresti
Troy Skidmore

April 27

Cindy Bennett

April 28

Jay Cook
Jackson Mehochko

April 29

Ashlynn Lee

April 30

Shawn Blake

Hughes Home Riverhouse

Lynn King

April 8

Tom McKinney

April 9

Nancy Hoch

April 10

Carla Jones

April 14

Maria Callow

April 15

Cassie Parker

April 24

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-March 23

Offerings

GENERAL FUND

DESIGNATED FUND

EXPENSES

Cemetery Fund

UPKEEP

DONATIONS

In Christian Sympathy

Average Attendance

SUNDAY EVENTS

WEDNESDAY EVENTS

OTHER WEEKLY EVENTS

Welcome Members

Thank you to Wednesday Night Dinner leaders, teams, and volunteers. You made these dinners possible!



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	D. Mehochko	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

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Ways to Give

Online: rbcstafford.org

Download our App:



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Stafford, VA 22554

