

PHOTO BY ALAN BARBOUR

Rectortown Reporter

April 2018

From the Pastor

Are We April Fools?

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ!



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April first is April Fools' Day — sometimes called All Fools' Day. Mark Twain once wrote that, "This is the day upon which we are reminded of what we are on the other 364." As I sit here at my desk, I cannot help but remember some of the classic jokes I've pulled on family and friends — and, of course, some of the whoppers they've pulled on me! Although April Fool's Day is not an official holiday in any country anywhere, it's fairly common in cultures around the world to set aside one day each year for harmless "jokes" and "pranks"; although Will Rogers once warned that *"the problem with practical jokes is that very often they get elected."*

Some would say that the first association between April First and foolishness occurred in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* in 1392; although others would say that's another kind of foolishness altogether. There are other claims, each with their own critics. But, did you know that on March 7, 1908 American cartoonist Bertha R. McDonald wrote:

"Authorities gravely back with it to the time of Noah and the ark. The London Public Advertiser of March 13, 1769, printed: 'The mistake of Noah sending the dove out of the ark before the water had abated, on the first day of April, and to perpetuate the memory of this deliverance it was thought proper, whoever forgot so remarkable a circumstance, to punish them by sending them upon some sleeveless errand similar to that ineffectual message upon which the bird was sent by the patriarch.'" ("The Oldest Custom in the World," Harper's Weekly, Vol 52, No 2672, p. 26).

I can't help but laugh to think of Noah standing there on the deck of the ark wondering how long it would take the pigeon to figure out he'd been pranked!

So — April Fools' or Easter Celebration? Just as it was 2,000 years ago on the first Easter morning, many thought the idea of resurrection was foolishness. But, for others, it was gospel! It's still that way in the world today. As for me, I think Bill and Gloria Gaither had it right when they wrote, "Because he lives, I can face tomorrow... and life is worth the living just because he lives." Because Jesus lives we can live in hope. No matter how foolish the world may think we are — we need not fear because our future — our eternity — is secure!

Grace and peace to each and everyone of you!

Pastor Steve

Psalm of the Month

Psalm 16:9-11

⁹ That's why my heart celebrates and my mood is joyous; yes, my whole body will rest in safety ¹⁰because you won't abandon my life to the grave; you won't let your faithful follower see the pit. ¹¹You teach me the way of life. In your presence is total celebration. Beautiful things are always in your right hand.

Memories from Two Sundays in March 2018



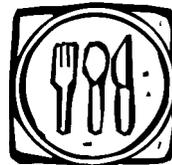
We enjoyed inspirational worship services by Pastor Bobby Ford (left) on March 4 and by Pastor Bill Wade on March 11. After Pastor Wade's service we all enjoyed a potluck lunch. Many thanks to both pastors and for the potluck!





Mark Your Calendars!
May 20, 2018
RUMC 125TH HOMECOMING
& POTLUCK LUNCH

immediately follows the worship service. RUMC will provide drinks and meat but please bring a dessert or side dish to share. **Pastor Bill Wade** will be our guest speaker. **Blue Ridge Barbershoppers** will perform after the luncheon. If you have questions, please contact Debbie Hall by phone at 540-229-9969 or by email at debhall@drhengineering.com.



Thanks to the March 16 clean up crew!

In Memoriam **Bill Rose**

On March 9, 2018, William "Bill" Rose passed peacefully at the University of Virginia Hospital Center in Charlottesville, Va, surrounded by family and friends. Bill was baptized and confirmed at Rectortown United Methodist Church, and had been an active member for over 60 years. He is survived by his wife Linda Hinkle Rose of Winchester, Va. During his many years at RUMC Bill served on the Board of Trustees, Administrative Council, Finance Committee and was the Charge and Church Treasurer. He was also a member of the United Methodist Men and the Choir. His family lived on Rokeby Farm, where Bill lived and worked until he and Linda moved to Winchester. He continued to work at Rokeby Farm, as Farm Manager until he retired. Bill was preceded in death by his first wife Brenda Leyman Rose and daughter Kathy Ann in 1979. Bill was a kind, gentle, caring man of strong faith who attended church regularly and lived his faith. He was an avid sports fan, with the Washington Redskins as his favorite team. Bill will be missed by his family, friends and those in the community that knew him.



April Birthdays

Ben Pisarcik 4/12
Henry Symanski. . . 4/17
Eileen Miller 4/18
Linda Rose 4/20
Judy Scheuble . . . 4/25

Anniversary

Gary &
Joann Garrett 4/10

Folklore of the Easter Lily

The Easter season is masked with several legends and folklores about the lily and its religious significance. Easter Lily is the traditional flower of Easter and is highly regarded as a joyful symbol of elegance, beauty, spirituality, hope, and life. In Christendom the lily has come to symbolize the resurrection of Jesus because of its delicacy of form and its snow white color. But have you ever wondered about the history and significance of this symbolic Easter flower, which adds elegance, grace and fragrance to millions of homes and churches during the spring time.

Every year, on the first Sunday after the first full moon, churches are filled with exquisite Easter lilies. Churches at Easter time grace the altars and surround the cross with Easter Lilies, to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This importance rests even more clearly on a legend that the blood of Jesus, as it fell from the cross, was by a miracle transformed into flowers which filled heaven and earth. The popular Easter lily we use today to

celebrate the holiday is referred to as 'the white-robed apostles of hope.' These beautiful trumpet shaped white flowers were brought to the United States in 1875 from Japan by an American tourist and named after the florist who made it popular. The flower retells the resurrection story with its life cycle. These snow white flowers symbolize new life and hope.

The bulb of these flowers buried in the ground represents the tomb of Jesus and the glorious white trumpet-like fragrant flowers which grow from the bulbs symbolize His life after death. The snowy white color stands for the purity of the Divine Savior and the joy of the resurrection while the trumpet shape signifies Gabriel's trumpet call to rebirth and new life.

Easter Lily - \$8 each
(envelopes will be available in the narthex.)

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Given by _____

Upcoming Meetings & Events

All events take place at RUMC unless otherwise indicated.

- Sun – Apr 1 7:00am Sunrise Service**
@ Middleburg UMC
- Sun – Apr 1 10:00am Easter Worship Service**
@ Rectortown UMC
- Wed – Apr 4 6:00pm Trustees Meet
- *Wed – Apr 4 6:00pm Bible Study**
(Topic: "Committed to Christ")
Meet in Fellowship Hall.
- *Wed – Apr 4 7:30pm Choir Practice
- Thur – Apr 5 7:00pm Admin Council Meets
- Mon – Apr 9 7:00pm Worship Meets

**NOTE: Meets weekly*

Every Week at RUMC

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
Worship for Adults and Children.
Nursery provided.

Sunday School
Adults: 8:45-9:45 a.m.
Children: 9-9:45 a.m.

RUMC Wants to know...

If you have any photos from our events, news or recipes you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you. Please e-mail Laura at Laura@NatsukoGraphicDesign.com. Article submissions are **due by the 15th of the month.**



Our Mission Statement

Being servants of God through prayer, love and action.