



PHOTO BY ALAN BARBOUR

# Rectortown Reporter

September 2018

## From the Pastor

### Labor Day and Economic Justice

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

The first "Labor Day" parade occurred well before it was an official holiday when 10,000 workers took unpaid time off to march from City Hall to Union Square in New York City on September 5th, 1882. This was one of many early attempts by the American work force to push back against the labor practices that had evolved during the Industrial Revolution. Conditions were poor —safety practices were non-existent—and laborers often had to work 12-hours a day 7-days a week for barely enough wages just to make ends meet. Congress finally legalized the "*working man's holiday*" in 1894 in an effort to end a nation-wide boycott of the Pullman Palace railway cars that had crippled the American railways. You see, Labor Day isn't about picnics and parades—it's about celebrating the true wealth of any industrialized nation—the laborers themselves.



And yet, the value of the American laborer has been steadily eroded since 1979. According to the Economic Policy Institute (a non-profit, non-partisan think tank created in 1986 whose stated purpose is "to include the needs of low- and middle-income workers in economic policy discussions" ([www.epi.org/about](http://www.epi.org/about))) average productivity in America rose by 96.7% while the average hourly compensation rose by 91.3% between 1948 and 1973. Roughly equal. Workers worked harder to produce more and were better compensated for that increased productivity. Between 1973 and 2013, however, average productivity rose 74.4% while average compensation rose only 9.2%. During that same period the annual income of the top 1% of American wage-earners rose by 138% while the annual income of the bottom 90% rose by only 15%. Is it any wonder that we live in a "booming economy" while a growing number of two-income families are giving up on the American dream of owning their own homes?

Scripture has much to say about social and economic injustice; and, so do our United Methodist Social Principles. Paragraph 163 of the United Methodist Book of Discipline says:

*"we claim all economic systems to be under the judgment of God... we recognize the responsibility of governments to develop and implement sound fiscal and monetary policies that provide for the economic life of individuals and corporate entities and that ensure full employment and adequate incomes with a minimum of inflation... we support measures that would reduce the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few."*

As we celebrate Labor Day, let us begin by once again seeking economic justice for the American laborer.

Grace and peace to each and everyone of you!

*Pastor Steve*

Rectortown United Methodist Church  
3049 Rectortown Rd.  
Rectortown, VA 20140  
[www.RectortownUMC.org](http://www.RectortownUMC.org)

**OFFICE/MAILING ADDRESS**  
PO Box 301, Rectortown, VA 20140

**Office:** (540) 364-1066

**Office email:**  
[Rectortownsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:Rectortownsecretary@gmail.com)

**Pastor:** Steve Weedling

**Pastor's Cell:** (434) 709-2654

**Pastor's Email:** [steveweedling@vaumc.org](mailto:steveweedling@vaumc.org)

**Newsletter Design:** Laura Symanski

## Scripture of the Month

*from the CEB (Common English Bible)*

### Psalm 148

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from heaven! Praise God on the heights!

<sup>2</sup>Praise God, all of you who are his messengers! Praise God, all of you who comprise his heavenly forces!

<sup>3</sup>Sun and moon, praise God! All of you bright stars, praise God!

<sup>4</sup>You highest heaven, praise God! Do the same, you waters that are above the sky!



**Y**outh is not entirely a time of life-it is a state of mind. It is not wholly a matter of ripe cheeks, red lips or supple knees. It is a temper of the will, a quality of the imagination, a vigor of the emotions, a freshness of the deep springs of life. It means a temperamental predominance of courage over timidity, of an appetite for adventure over love of ease.

“Nobody grows old by merely living a number of years. People grow old only by deserting their ideals.”

“Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up interest wrinkles the soul. Worry, doubt, self-distrust, fear and despair-these are the long, long years that bow the head and turn the growing spirit back to dust.”

“Whatever your years, there is in every being's heart the love of wonder, the undaunted challenge of events, the un-failing child-like appetite for what next, and the joy and the game of life. You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt; as young as your self-confidence, as old as your fear, as young as your hope, as old as your despair. In the central place of every heart there is a recording chamber, so long as it receives messages of beauty, hope, cheer and courage, so long are you young.”

“When the wires are all down and your heart is covered with the snows of pessimism and the ice of cynicism, then, and then only are you grown old.”

This poem was a favorite of General MacArthur and he quoted from it frequently. Attributed to Samuel Ullman, a prominent Alabama civic leader and businessman, it hung on the wall of the General's office in Tokyo.

Thanks to Betty for sending in this poem.

# RUMC Upcoming Meetings & Events

Wed - Sept 5	6:00pm	Trustees Meet
*Wed - Sept 5	7:30pm	Choir Practice
Thur - Sept 6	7:00pm	Admin Council Meets
Mon - Sept 10	7:00pm	Worship Meets
<b>Sun - Nov 18</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>	<b>Annual Charge Conference (@ RUMC)</b>

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](mailto:Laura@NatsukoGraphicDesign.com). Article submissions are due by the 15th of the month.



### Our Mission Statement

Being servants of God through prayer, action, and love through service.