



PHOTO BY ALAN BARBOUR

Rectortown Reporter

December 2018

From the Pastor

A Time of Advent

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



Advent — from the Latin *adventus*, which means “coming” — is four weeks long and includes the four Sundays preceding Christmas Eve. “The season proclaims the comings of the Christ — whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again, who comes continually in Word and Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate. Each year Advent calls the community of faith to prepare for these comings... **Each Sunday of Advent has its distinctive theme: Christ’s coming in final victory (First Sunday), John the Baptist (Second and Third Sundays), and the events immediately preceding the birth of Jesus Christ (Fourth Sunday).**” (*United Methodist Book of Worship*, p. 238).

Advent is a time of “coming” — specifically, Christ’s coming. And, it is a time of preparing — specifically, our preparing; and we do a lot of preparing in December! In fact, December is probably the busiest month in a believer’s whole year. But what is it that we’re so busily preparing for — Christ’s coming; or, dinners, parties, and gift giving? There’re those devoted disciples in churches across the country, and around the world, who still pay more attention to the “reason for the season”; but generally speaking, our contemporary society has bought into the economically-driven-consumer version of Christmas. Total sales and profit margins make a “happy holiday” season while simultaneously sapping the “merry” out of Christmas.

Jesus said, “I was born and came into the world for this reason: to testify to the truth.” (John 18:37b, CEB) Not: *some* truth; or *your* truth; or *my* truth; or, *a truth that suits one’s agenda or world-view*. Jesus came to testify to *THE* truth. I believe that despite the philosopher’s and post-Christendom intellectual’s arguments for the subjective nature of truth — there is, as inconvenient as it may be, such a thing as a truth that is truth simply because it’s true. Jesus said so. And the truth he witnessed to then, and that the Holy Spirit continues to witness to now, is all about God’s sacrificial love and abundant grace for every human being everywhere.

Advent is an in-between time to remember Christ’s coming in a manger in Bethlehem nearly two thousand years ago; and a time of preparing for the day when Christ will come again. As you prepare for events this month, ask yourself if you’re preparing for the right event. Christ will come again. Will you be prepared?

Grace and peace to each and everyone of you!

Pastor Steve

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Scripture of the month

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶A child is born to us, a son is given to us, and authority will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷There will be vast authority and endless peace for David’s throne and for his kingdom, establishing and sustaining it with justice and righteousness now and forever.

From the Outreach Committee



New Years Eve at RUMC

This year we are planning a New Year's Eve event to be held at RUMC. It will be December 31 (obviously) from 6 PM - Until... The Worship, Fellowship and Outreach Committees are working on the details. This will be a family focused event, and of course there will be food. More details to come, and we would appreciate your ideas/input. We will be asking those interested to RSVP before 24 Dec, so watch for the request. Contact Debbie Hall, Linda Daniels, Judy or Larry Scheuble for more information.

Thanks!

... For the great effort again this year to support Samaritan's Purse Shoe Boxes Project. Linda and Roger Daniels delivered 32 Shoe Boxes. These Shoe Boxes will end up in many different places around the world, providing a child a special gift from someone that cares. Thanks for your continued support.



December Birthdays

Ben (Buddy) Wegdam 12/12
Tommy Ann Kirkpatrick 12/25

From the Worship Committee Advent Calendar of Events

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- 2 Dec Sunday** *1st Sunday of Advent*
5-7 PM Decorate Sanctuary Christmas Tree and enjoy a meal.
7-7:15 PM Community Tree Lighting
-
- 3 Dec Monday** Menorah Service and Lighting Celebration by Rabbi Rose and Pastor Weedling
6:30 PM
-
- 9 Dec Sunday** *2nd Sunday of Advent**
7 PM Hymn Sing with Joice
-
- 16 Dec Sunday** *3rd Sunday of Advent*
5-7 PM Craft night*
-
- 23 Dec Sunday** *4th Sunday of Advent**
5-7 PM
-
- 24 Dec Monday** *Christmas Eve*
5:30 PM Candle Light Service*
-
- 31 Dec Monday** *New Years Eve**
Dinner, Movie and more!
-

**Note: Save the Date—Details to come in December*

Church Humor

A church in a rural area was badly in need of repairs, and parishioners met to discuss what could be done to raise the necessary funds. One of the wealthiest—and stingiest—of the members rose and said he would give \$500, then sat down.

Suddenly a large chunk of plastering fell from the ceiling and hit him on the head. He jumped up looking confused, and said "Did I say \$500? I meant \$5000!" Then he sat down again.

After a moment, a voice said from the back, "Hit him again, Lord!"

Thanks to Shirley for sharing.

Congratulations!



On November 11, 2018, the Virginia Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (VAHPERD) recognized their annual professional award winners. These outstanding professionals came from all over the state of Virginia.

Among the award recipients

was our own **Amy Riggio** (pictured here with her husband, Joseph and daughter, Styler). Amy won the *Elementary Physical Educator of the Year* for her work at Sanders Corner Elementary, Loudoun County, VA

Other award winners were:

- *Middle School Physical Educator*—Andrew Wymer, Jackson P. Burley Middle School, Charlottesville
- *Secondary Physical Educator*—John Jones, Mt. Vernon High School, Alexandria
- *Adapted Physical Educator*—Robert Mages, Virginia Beach Public Schools Special Education Annex, Virginia Beach
- *Jump Rope for Heart Recognition Award*—Bryn Varhol, Churchill Road Elementary School, McClean
- *College/University Health Teacher*—Cathy McKay, James Madison University, Harrisonburg
- *College/University Physical Educator of the Year*—Rodney Gaines, Hampton University, Hampton
- *Recreation Professional*—Michael Maina, Roanoke College, Roanoke

Thanks to Larry for sharing.



In Memoriam

Beautiful altar flowers in church on November 11th given by the Harringtons in memory of Nancy Tate.

Thank you to Muggie for sharing.

Notes From the Charge Conference

The Reverend Doctor Steven Summers, Winchester UMC District Superintendent (DS), presided over this year's Annual Charge Conference. Reverend Summers was accompanied by Wilma Jennings, the Winchester District Lay Leader. The Charge Conference was shared with our Cooperative Parish sister church Middleburg UMC. Fifteen attendees voted on various items of business; Recording Secretaries, Election of Officers, Approval of 2019 Salary for Clergy, Adoption of Accountable Reimbursement Plan, Adoption of Parsonage/Housing Exclusion and Recommendation of Lay Servants. A short discussion on Statistical Reports were given by Pastor Weedling, and Larry Scheuble and Reggie Dawson provided reports on activities ongoing within the churches. "Time of Teaching" included information on the General Conference focus for February 2019, a video on Six Guiding Principles by Bishop Lewis (below) and a Question and Answer period with Reverend Summers. He thanked everyone for their dedicated efforts to the Connectional Church and for preparing all the necessary documentation for the Charge Conference. Refreshments following the conference were provided by the Fellowship Committee.

6 Guiding Principles

1. Clergy and Laity are to lead in a non-anxious manner for General conference considerations. (Scripture: Philippians 4:6)
2. Pray for Churches mission and the Way Forward for four minutes (General Conference prayer, Virginia. General Conference Delegation, Power of the Holy Spirit to lead and guide.)
3. Pursuit of the UMC mission statement, "To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for Scripture: Matthew. 28:18-20
4. Virginia Conference Vision Statement: To be disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve."
5. Strive for Unity in the Virginia Conference prayer.
6. Keep promises as an Annual Conference.

To watch the video, go to vimeo.com/293610770

Larry Scheuble

RUMC Upcoming Meetings & Events

Sat – Dec 1	9am	Trustees set up Tree
Sun – Dec 2	5-7pm	Advent Activity
Mon – Dec 3	6:30pm	Menorah Service
Tues – Dec 4	7pm	Worship Committee Meets
Thur – Dec 6	6:30pm	Finance/Admin Council Meets
Sun – Dec 9	7pm	Advent Activity
Sun – Dec 16	11am	Advent Craft Activity
Sat – Dec 22	2-6pm	Parsonage Open House
Sun – Dec 23	5-7pm	Advent Activity
Mon – Dec 24	5:30pm	Christmas Eve Service
Mon – Dec 31	6pm	New Year's Eve at RUMC <i>(Details coming soon!)</i>
Sat – Jan 5	9am	Tree Undecorating

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

To be a *catalyst* for Jesus Christ, with a proactive, visible, and transforming *presence*, creating an emerging *fellowship*.