



PHOTO BY ALAN BARBOUR

Rectortown Reporter

January 2019

From the Pastor

Training for Change



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

“Happy New Year!” As 2018 is wrapped up and relegated to the history books, 2019 looms large before us! For some, the new year will bring more of the same old... same old... same old.... For others, however, the new year brings something entirely different—it brings new possibilities and new opportunities! Change isn’t always a comfortable or enjoyable thing; but regardless of how hard we work to keep things the same as they’ve always been, they change anyway.

As the New Year begins, it’s time for us to make some resolutions for changes in our lives and in our church. It’s time for us to make promises to God for ways through which we will become better people as we become better disciples of Jesus Christ. The question is—how will we be part of the 10% that succeed rather than the 90% that fail every year in their New Year’s Resolutions? I believe we do that *together*. We succeed by loving and supporting one another—by building one another up in our failures even as we celebrate one another’s successes. I believe that we succeed by believing that in God all things are possible!

Change. A new chapter—or a new journey. How do we begin? Winnie the Pooh says, *“whenever I want to go someplace new, I always begin by leaving the place I’ve been”* (Christopher Robin, 2018 movie). If we want things in the church to be different than they are, then we have to be willing to do things differently than we’ve been doing them; and we must be willing to try things we’ve never tried before. We cannot expect success if we’re not willing to risk failure. It will take the ideas and the effort of all of us in the church, along with some good training, to make the changes we experience in 2019 changes that we can be happy with.

So, as the new year begins, I encourage you to attend the **Winchester District training day on Saturday, January 12 at Shenandoah University from 9:00am to 12:30pm** (\$10 fee—guest speaker Rev. Christian Washington from Houston, TX); and to our **RUMC Training Day on Saturday, January 19, from 9:00am to 1:00pm**. I sincerely hope that each and every one of you will plan to attend these very important church leadership events.

Grace and peace to each and everyone of you!
Pastor Steve

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New Year Prayer

Creative God, you make all things new in heaven and on earth. We come to you in a new year with new desires and old fears, new decisions and old controversies, new dreams and old weaknesses. Because you are a God of hope, we know that you create all the possibilities of the future. Because you are a God of love, we know that you accept all the mistakes of the past. Because you are the God of our faith, we enter your gates with thanksgiving and praise, we come into your presence with gladness and a joyful noise, and we serve and bless you. Amen.

Nativity Scene Updated

The RUMC Nativity scene has a new look! Thanks to Suzanne Gardner and daughter, Grace Western, who took time this fall to add "living color." Several new pieces were added last year and the new paint job is a nice addition. The set was originally gifted to RUMC by Jean Payne and her family in memory of our long time organist, Hunter Payne.



2nd Annual RUMC Community Tree Decorating

Although bad weather forced a date change, decorating the RUMC Community Tree was a success on Nov 25. Erica, Courtney and Rachel Harrington created and hung new decorations for the beautiful Blue Spruce. Many others joined in the decorating as well. Thanks to all who helped make the day successful especially Judy Scheuble Fellowship Committee and Linda Daniels Outreach Committee. Here's a photo of the Community Tree adding a little sparkle to Rectortown in the evening.



First Sunday of Advent—Sanctuary and Tree Decorating

First came "set up" the day before with Jeff, Larry, Carl and Jimmy piecing together the big tree and Linda setting up the Angel tree. Then, on December 2—the First Sunday of Advent—the

Sanctuary and Christmas Tree were decorated by a willing and cheerful group of folks. After the Fellowship Committee's nice meal, everyone jumped into action and decorated. One big joy was seeing the young folks jump in with new decorating ideas. During the event, newly created ornaments and other decorations from 2017 were placed on the Community Tree. From balcony to organ to Angel tree, the group turned boxes of "stuff", old and new, into a beautifully decorated sanctuary. From floor, almost to ceiling. Nativity scenes, garland, ornaments and more were precisely placed and admired. Afterwards, everyone gathered outside and lit the Community Tree. Everyone circled the tree, held hands and sang songs including an amusing rendition of one from Dr. Seuss's *Grinch*. Thanks to all who joined in this important seasonal activity of preparation. And, to the Fellowship Committee for the wonderful meal.





From the Outreach Committee

Second Annual Menorah Lighting

On December 3, 2018, more than 50 folks gathered for the 2nd Annual Community Menorah lighting, featuring Rabbi Rose Jacob, who shared the history of this interfaith event. Henry Lavine of Friends of Rectortown, and Pastor Steve Weedling of Rectortown UMC, provided opening welcome and introductions. Clergy from Grace Episcopal, Bethel UMC, and Emanuel Episcopal, as well as the President of the Jewish Community of Warrenton were in attendance. The presentation was very timely and thought provoking. The evening included great fellowship, opportunities to meet others from diverse religious groups, traditional Jewish dance and refreshments.



From the Worship Committee

Christmas Hymn Sing Brings Joice Back for a Visit and Fun

As part of our 2018 Advent activities, the Worship Committee set up a Christmas Hymn Sing, led by Joice Fredenburgh. Although the crowd was small, the voices were strong. Favorite selections from our *United Methodist Book of Hymns* were first on the agenda, followed by some traditional Christmas carols and ending with some of



the group's renditions that were remembered from our youth. Thanks to Joice for leading the evening event. It was a wonderful evening, and added to the festive Advent activities this season.

Worship Committee

Holiday Crafts a Big Hit

Following worship service on the 3rd Sunday in Advent, December 16, 2018, the RUMC Outreach Committee hosted a holiday craft event. Using things like marshmallows, candy canes (many flavors and colors), chocolates and other common items adults and youth created treats, gifts and things like Santa's sleigh filled with gifts (mini chocolate bars) and cups of hot chocolate (made using a marshmallow)—wonderful take aways.



Thanks to Linda Daniels and her committee for setting up and teaching others how to be creative.

Thanks also to the Fellowship Team for a delicious lunch.



Above: The Children's Sermon. Below left: Lunch!
Right: Craft time





January Birthdays

Kristen Hylton 1/9

Mac Kirkpatrick 1/29

From the Board of Trustees

Parsonage Driveway and Parking Area Upgraded

After almost 20 years, the Board of Trustees were able to widen and regravel the Parsonage driveway, and to add to the overall parking space.

On December 13-14, 2018, Gibson Sewer and Waterdodged the rainy weather and get the job done. So thanks to Eddie Gibson for making it happen! Hopefully many of you were able to try it out on the 22nd, for this year's parsonage Christmas event.

And, a big THANK YOU to our Cooperative Parish partners at Middleburg United Methodist Church for helping fund this important project.

RUMC Board of Trustees



From the Worship Committee

A Little History...

The current RUMC church, built in 1894, is the third constructed since the church formed in 1781. The first was lost to fire. The second was ordered to be dismantled by Gen. McLellan in order to build a field hospital during the Civil War. After the war, Congress provided funds to rebuild the church. We will celebrate the 125th anniversary of service to the Rectortown community this year.

CALLING ALL MEMBERS—Past and Present

The Worship Committee is in search of pictures of RUMC events, activities or family celebrations (baptism, confirmation, weddings, etc) for a presentation at our 2019 Homecoming in May, celebrating the 125th anniversary of service. Photos—outside, inside, baptisms, confirmations, weddings, etc.—anything that shows "RUMC history." We would like to start gathering the photos immediately.

You may hand deliver your photos to the church office at 3049 Rectortown Rd (Tuesday thru Friday 9am-12:30pm), email them to rectortownsecretary@gmail.com, or mail them to Rectortown UMC, PO Box 301, Rectortown VA, 20140. We will scan and return your hard copy photos. Make sure to let us know who's in the photo, the occasion, and date. Please start looking for those pictures—needed by March 19, 2019 but preferably sooner.

RUMC Upcoming Meetings & Events

Wed – Jan 2	6:00pm	Trustee’s Meet
Thur – Jan 3	7:00pm	Admin Council Meets
Sun – Jan 6	11:00am	Take down Christmas Decorations
Tue – Jan 8	7:00pm	Worship Meets
Sat – Jan 12*	9:00am	Winchester District Training at Shenandoah University
Tue – Jan 15	7:00pm	Nomination Leadership Meets
Sat – Jan 19	9:00am	Committee Member Training

**Events take place at Rectortown unless specified*

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*.