



PHOTO BY ALAN BARBOUR

Rectortown Reporter

August 2019

From the Pastor

The Church Lifecycle



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

Just as the seasons cycle from spring to summer to fall to winter; and human lives cycle from birth to growth to life to death; so do churches have life-cycles as shown in the diagram to the right.

At the BIRTH of a new church, the vision is critical in the initial growth of the church. The church needs a clear vision of who they want to be, and *where they are going*. As the church moves from BIRTH to INFANCY, it begins to focus on *relationships* just as much as it does on vision as it begins to ask "who is going with us?"

As the church continues to grow, programs (or ministries) become important to continued growth. The church not only wants to know where they're going and who's going with them; they also want to know "how do we get there?" So, the church begins to institute Sunday School, or Church School, or Fellowship events, or Bible Studies, or Missions, or... well, you get the point. Inevitably, as programs grow the church discovers it needs *structure* (aka, administration) because now it needs to know *what we control, and how we'll control it*.

Notice how the growth curve slows down as each new thing is added to the life of the church. Growth stagnates and flattens out as the vision is overwhelmed by the programs and structure. The church is now concerned with *relationships* (most often amongst themselves), programs and structure.

As the church moves from MATURITY to EMPTY NEST (the nursery is empty, the youth group no longer exists, and there are not many, if any, young adults under 35 years old), programs become more important than *relationships* ("if we start another program, they will come...") Then finally, in the church's OLD AGE the only thing really left is structure. The church clings to control, which becomes increasingly legalistic and illusory. And, as growth was at its fastest in the very beginning, so is decline at the very end.

Where would you say that our church is in this life-cycle? While it paints a gloomy picture, let me assure you that churches do not have to die. But if a church is to experience renewal and new growth, it is very important for that church to acknowledge where it is on the life-cycle, and then to decide which direction it wants to go. Renewal is never easy, but nothing worthwhile ever is.

Grace and peace to each and everyone of you!

Pastor Steve

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Serenity Prayer

God, give me grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, Courage to change the things which should be changed, and the Wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.

Living one day at a time,
Enjoying one moment at a time,
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,
Taking, as Jesus did, This sinful world as it is,
Not as I would have it,
Trusting that You will make all things right,
If I surrender to Your will,
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life,
And supremely happy with You forever in the next.

Amen.

Congratulations RUMC Youth!

On June 2, 2019 Rectortown United Methodist celebrated our Youth. First, Larry Scheuble congratulated this year's high school graduates: Henry Symanski, Coleman Glascock Sarah Ponn, Hannah Johnson, Maddie Walker, and Kayla Ryder. Then RUMC confirmed our 2019 confirmation class: Buddy Wegdam, Kiki Wegdam, Paris Wegdam, Rachael Harrington, Courtney Harrington, Erika Harrington, Warren Walker, Olivia Walker and Joseph Pisarcik. Pastor Steve confirmed them and Larry Scheuble showed them the Bibles each would receive.

Congratulations to everyone. We are so proud of ALL of you!



And then there was cake!



Attention ALL RUMC Members

Every Member Meeting to Discuss Traditional Plan Implementation and make critical decisions

Earlier this year the special General Conference 2019 was held to determine the road ahead for the United Methodist Church. The General Conference approved the Traditional Plan implementation which results in retaining the current verbiage in the discipline and penalties for performing homosexual marriages in the church and repercussions for those who conduct them or violate *The UMC Discipline* in other ways. RUMC needs to discuss these issues. As well as reviewing decisions from Virginia Annual Conference 2019 and Upcoming 2020 General conference. The date has not been set yet, as we are asking the congregation to recommend the best dates/times for this meeting. Please plan to attend once the meeting dates are set.

From the Board of Trustees

RUMC to Host New Fiberoptic Backup System and Distribution Panel

If you have read the 24 July 2019 *Fauquier Times*, you may have seen the article titled, "Rectortown finds Community-sized solution". RUMC has been engaged in this initiative almost since its inception. On 25 July, Claude Schoch, owner of High Mountain Farm Broadband, Matt Calligan, Charlie Gauthier (Friends of Rectortown) and Larry Scheuble (RUMC Trustee) met to discuss RUMC hosting the new fiberoptic backup system and distribution panel supporting this project.

A critical need for a successful, easily accessible, central backup system, is emergency back up power. Several years ago, supported by a grant from the Northern Piedmont Community Foundation — Kortladd Fund, RUMC installed an emergency generator. The generator will allow RUMC to host individuals, families and others in case of power outages, like we recently experienced due to a "heat wave". The Board of Trustees proposed offering to provide on site location and back up power for the project, and the Administrative Council agreed and supported hosting the services/power use.

This will benefit all of the Rectortown Community using the new capability (over 90 installations) as well as helping RUMC access the internet and add a number of new capabilities. The cost to run the backup system will be about \$10 per month. But, the service provider, High Mountain Farm Broadband, has offered to provide internet service for free in exchange for RUMC hosting. That will be a minimum of \$150/month worth of services. Service could be available as early as this September. More to come!



New Social Hall Porch Shed Roof Under Construction

As most of you know, the Trustees have contracted to reroof the Social Hall roof, due to age and damage to the 25-year-old shingles. Before the new roof is put on, a new porch with Shed style roof is being added as well as reroofing the back steps entry roof. The only detail left to add are wrought iron supports. Please excuse the construction area which should be completed in the next months.

Charge Conference Date Set for October 6

Rectortown UMC Charge Conference has been set for **October 6, 2019, from 3-5:30 p.m. at Marshall UMC**. This year's charge conference will include 12 churches within the Winchester District. Bishop Lewis' challenge to all churches "to have a path or plan of discipleship formation activity deployed by 2020" will be the focus for each church to discuss.

The Administrative Council discussed the Charge Conference in the July meeting, calling for draft budget inputs from all committees on August 1. In addition to financial reports, the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee needs your help in filling the many positions needed to "operate the business of the church." Please reach out to the committee and let them know if there is an area in the church in which you would like to work, what gifts you feel you have to serve, any change you feel you would like to make in a current position. Everyone is important and there is a great need. Thanks in advance for your help.

July Birthdays

Carla Ryder	7/1
Rachael Harrington	7/2
Hazel Sisk	7/6
Cindy Stolte	7/6
Kiki Wegdam	7/19
Parker Hylton	7/19
Roxie Willis	7/19
Barbara Russell	7/28
McKenzie Pisarcik	7/30

Anniversaries

Roy & Hazel Sisk	7/18
Mac & Tommy Ann Kirkpatrick .	7/24

August Birthdays

Amy Riggio	8/9
Jimmy Willis.	8/9
Courtney Harrington	8/11
Steve Weedling	8/11
Carl Carter	8/11
Gladys Willis	8/15
Yeshi Pisarcik	8/18
Kate Ponn	8/19
Avis Kessler	8/27
Dave Hall	8/28
Laura Symanski.	8/29

Anniversaries

Dave & Debbie Hall	8/11
Steve & Faith Weedling.	8/17
Ben & Tara Wegdam	8/23
Alan & Suzy Barbour	8/25
John & Cindy Stolte.	8/30



Suggested School Supplies

Tax Free Weekend August 3-5, 2019
Please have your donated school supplies to the church by August 11

- 16ct Crayons
- Coloring Pencils
- Spiral Notebooks
- Marble Composition Books
- Tissues
- Gallon Zip Lock Bags
- Zipper Pencil Pouch
- Quart Zip Lock Bags
- Disinfectant Wipes
- Plain Yellow #2 pencils
- Eraser Tops
- Scissors
- Yellow Highlighters
- Glue Sticks
- Pink Erasers
- Folders
- Index Cards
- Wide Rule Paper
- Pencil Box
- Hand Sterilizer

This is just a suggested list of school supplies that would help out for all grades at the school. Any supplies that you can donate will help teachers and students. Please contact Linda Daniels for additional information. Thanks in Advance for your second mile giving.

RUMC Upcoming Meetings & Events

**Events take place at Rectortown unless specified*

Thu, Aug 1	7 PM	Admin Council (Draft Budget Sheets Due)
Fri, Aug 2		Lay Servant Training Randolph-Macon College
Wed, Aug 14	10 AM	Worship Committee
Wed, Aug 14	6 PM	Trustees Committee
Aug TBD		Leadership Development
Aug TBD		Finance Committee
TBD		The Way Forward Discussion
TBD		Fiberoptic Cable Information
Sept 13-14		Winchester Lay Servant Training @ Duncan Memorial UMC
Sept 29	10 AM	Middleburg/Rectortown UMC joint worship service and picnic
Oct 6	3-5:30 PM	Charge Conference @ Marshall UMC

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.

RUMC Wants to know...

If you have any photos from our events, news or recipes you'd like to share, please e-mail Laura@NatsukoGraphicDesign.com. Please send by the 15th of the month.



Our Mission Statement

Serving God through Prayer, Action, and Love through Service.