



PHOTO BY ALAN BARBOUR

Rectortown Reporter

October 2019

From the Pastor

From Fellowship to Hospitality

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

I've been re-reading a book I read last year while attending the Virginia Clergy Leadership Program titled, *Shift: Helping Congregations Back Into the Game of Effective Ministry*, written by Dr. Phil Maynard. As I've been reading, I've been thinking about how I might introduce some of Phil's ideas into our congregation. What came to mind is a Sermon Series on the five shifts Phil believes are necessary to both "a brand-new church" and "to a church that is seeking to renew its ministry" (p. 9). Those five shifts are: 1) from fellowship to hospitality; 2) from worship as an event to worship as a lifestyle; 3) from membership to discipleship; 4) from "serve us" to service; and 5) from "survival mentality" to generosity.

You might ask how Dr. Maynard settled on these five shifts as vital to kick-starting re-visioned, re-newed, and re-vitalized ministry in churches of all sizes. After serving as a pastor for 25 years followed by several years as the Director of Congregational Excellence in the Florida Conference, and earning four graduate degrees focused on growing mature disciples and healthy churches; Phil became a leader in ministry coaching, consulting, and training. These shifts became clear to him while working for many years with congregations all across the country.

So, I will begin a sermon series in October starting with a focus on the difference between fellowship and hospitality from a biblical standpoint. At first glance you might think they are the same beast dressed in different clothing. They are not. They are, in fact, two different beasts. According to Dr. Maynard, "*hospitality is more than fellowship with one another. It's about opening our hearts to others and building relationships, plain and simple.*" (p. 14.) Every church believes it's a loving and welcoming community—I've visited several of them in several states while on vacations in the last ten years. And they all are—to one another; but that doesn't always translate well to the visitor.

How hospitable to the visitor are we? Can we do better? In order to assess how we're doing, and what we need to focus on, I will ask all of you to complete a 25-question survey. Since surveys are only as good as the effort the surveyed put into answering the questions, I'm asking you to please give it your very best effort—not for me, but for our church.

Grace and peace to each and everyone of you!

Pastor Steve



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Psalm of the month

91:14-16

¹⁴ God says, "Because you are devoted to me,

I'll rescue you.

I'll protect you because you know my name.

¹⁵ Whenever you cry out to me, I'll answer.

I'll be with you in troubling times.

I'll save you and glorify you.

¹⁶ I'll fill you full with old age.

I'll show you my salvation."

Do You Know Who These People Are?



We'd like to start a new segment in the newsletter. Find a photo of people attending/participating in an RUMC event or simply known as a past or present member/friend of RUMC. Then bring/send/text/however it to us and we'll put it in the newsletter like the one above. Folks (hopefully) would identify the person(s), the location, event, situation, etc., and we would publish the identities in the newsletter the following month. We could also put these photos on the bulletin board at church for the month.

Please make sure any photos you provide have your personal information on them so we can return them after the segment is published.

Let us know what you think. It'd be a fun way to take a trip down memory lane.



October Birthdays

Larry Scheuble 10/10

Anniversaries

Dave & Joice Fredenburgh 10/6

Jimmy & Vicki Willis. 10/18

Gregg & Kim Kroes 10/27

Something to Ponder

The woman whispered, *God, speak to me!*
and a meadowlark sang, but the woman did not hear.

So the woman yelled, *God speak to me!*
and the thunder rolled across the sky, but the woman did not listen.

The woman looked around and said, *God, let me see you!*

and a star shone brightly, but the woman did not notice.

And the woman shouted, *God, show me a miracle*

and a life was born, but the woman did not know.

So the woman cried out in despair. *God touch me and let me know that you are here.*

Whereupon God reached down and touched the woman.

But the woman brushed the butterfly away and walked on.

Keep Swimming

Two frogs fell into a deep cream bowl.

One was an optimistic soul.

But the other took the gloomy view.

"We'll drown," he lamented without much ado, and with a last despairing cry, he flung up his legs and said, "Goodby."

Quote the other frog with a steadfast grin, "I can't get out but I won't give in,

I'll just swim around til my strength is spent, then I'll die the more content."

Bravely he swam to work his scheme, and his struggles began to churn the cream. The more he swam, his legs a flutter, the more the cream turned into butter.

On top of the butter at last he stopped, and out of the bowl he gaily hopped.

What is the moral? It's easily found...

If you can't hop out, keep swimming around!

*These were shared by RUMC members.
Thank you!*

From the Board of Trustees



Parsonage Improvements

Our parsonage is one of the best on Winchester District. And to keep it that way, the SP/PRC and Trustees complete an annual review in accordance with UMC *The Book of Discipline*. This year there were recommendations to replace the handicap access ramp entry storm door, refurbish the back deck, and repair steps and handrails on the front door, to mention a few. Todd Frazier has been working on several of those projects, but here is a picture of the new half glass storm door that he recently installed. Since this is a handicap entry door we replaced the full glass with half glass. This will minimize possibility of breaking the glass when using a walker, wheel chair or other support items.

Social Hall Roof

Preparations needed before the new Social Hall roof continue. The old rain gutters were in very bad shape, so the Trustees removed them. Once the gutters were removed, we could see that there was damage to the fascia boards that supported them. Tom Hanger Home Improvements was brought in to make needed repairs and install new, composite material, fascia board, and wrap the remaining areas such as the new front porch and rear entry roof.



In addition, new long-lasting LED lights were installed for accessibility and safety. One was added to the front porch along with 2 to the rear entryway. All lights have dusk-to-dawn photo sensors, which stay on through

the evening. This will increase safety and security as well as ease of entry. They also have motion sensors which turn on when someone approaches the stairwell during dark hours ensuring safe access and visibility "to let you see the keyhole" when trying to unlock the door.

Once the new roof is in place, new gutters will be installed.

Your Trustees



RUMC Upcoming Meetings & Events

**Events take place at Rectortown unless specified*

Thur – Oct 3	7:00pm	Admin Council Meets
Sun – Oct 6	3-5:30pm	Charge Conference@ Marshall UMC
Wed – Oct 9	10:00am	Worship Meets
Wed – Oct 9	6:00pm	Trustees Meet

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.