



PHOTO BY ALAN BARBOUR

Rectortown Reporter

January 2020

From the Pastor

Something old... something new

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

“Happy New Year!” As 2019 is being wrapped up and relegated to the history books, 2020 looms large before us! For some, the new year will bring more of the 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. Seems to me that the best way to deal with change is welcoming it rather than fighting it.

As I reflect on what was, even as I dream of what might be, an old wedding poem comes to mind. Yeah, I know—that's just the way my mind works! Anyway, it says that the bride needs "something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue..." with her at her wedding. Of course, these words don't mean the same thing today that they did when they were first written. But what keeps leaping out at me is the *"something old, something new..."*

Our Bibles contain *"something old"* and *"something new"*—specifically, the Testaments. Some believe that the new supersedes the old; and some sense that the God of the old can't be the same God as the new because one seems to be a God of violence and judgment while the other appears to be a God of love and redemption. But these two testaments aren't opposed to one another and should not be thought of as *"either-or."* They are one continuous story of humanity's experience of a God of grace—a God who acts out of love for the benefit of humanity and, indeed, all of creation. Hence these two testaments should be thought of as *"both-and."*

So, here's the thing: while there is continuity between old and new in the Scriptures; there is a shift in how God is experienced and described. It isn't God who has changed—it is humanity. We grow and mature individually, and as a people. We learn. And our understanding of things natural and supernatural changes with our growing understanding. We talk about the Bible as the *"living word of God"* and yet we demand that it remain stagnant and unchanging from generation to generation—which is exactly the opposite of what happens with every living thing in nature. Perhaps, *"change"* isn't antithetical to our understanding of the nature and being of God—perhaps it is necessary if we are to truly experience the fullness of the greatness and goodness of God.

Grace and peace to each and everyone of you!

Pastor Steve

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Psalm of the month

¹¹Do the same, you kings of the earth and every single person, you princes and every single ruler on earth!

¹²Do the same, you young men— young women too!—you who are old together with you who are young!

¹³Let all of these praise the Lord's name because only God's name is high over all. Only God's majesty is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴God raised the strength of his people, the praise of all his faithful ones—that's the Israelites, the people who are close to him.

Praise the Lord!

Advent Activities Abound!

This year's Advent season has been filled with our usual activities: Linda set up the Angel tree, a great group helped to decorate the sanctuary and Christmas trees (indoors and outdoors). Linda's table of craft items helped make creating original ornaments easy and fun. Thanks to all who joined in this important seasonal activity of preparation. And, to the Fellowship Committee for always providing delicious goodies throughout the season.



Shirley wears a snowman pin created from buttons and ribbon





January Birthdays

Kristen Hylton . . 1/9

Mac Kirkpatrick . 1/29

Paris Wegdam . . 1/31

Thank You

A note of thanks to all those who served on various committees during 2019. As a volunteer organization, every committee and person is essential to keep our church operating and serving others. With the New Year upon us, please remember that those of you that have accepted a position for 2020, the first meeting is the Admin Council on January 2, 2020. So if you are not sure which committee you are on or what meetings you should attend, please check with the Nominations and Lay Leadership Development Committee. Thanks for serving in 2020.

From the Outreach Committee

BIBLE STUDY

Vision Statement of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church:

“Disciples are life-long learners influencing others to serve.”



Rectortown UMC
Tuesdays

11:00 am & 6:30 pm
begins January 14

Middleburg UMC
Thursdays

11:00 am & 6:30 pm
begins January 16

We will be offering a study on the Book of Genesis beginning in January 2020. You are free to choose what day and time you attend. And, you can mix and match as you desire to best fit your busy schedules! You will not need any special books for this study. All you will need to bring with you each week is your favorite Bible, lots of questions, and an open mind! Hope to see you there! And don't forget to bring a friend or two with you!

UN-DECORATING AND PACKING

We will take down the Christmas decorations and pack them up on **Saturday, January 11 beginning at 10:00 am**. We need your help to get things properly sorted, packed, and stored for next year. Hope to see you there!

COOPERATIVE PARISH JOINT WORSHIP

Hosted by
Middleburg United Methodist Church
Sunday, January 19, 2020
11:00 a.m.

There will be special bluegrass music and a meal (provided by MUMC) afterwards. It should be another great event! Hope to see all y'all there! And, don't forget to bring a friend or two, ya hear?



E-mailed Moment in History

On Sat, Dec 14, 2019 at 2:39 PM Larry Scheuble <lscheuble@aol.com> wrote:
All,

This is an historic moment for RUMC, as this is the first email sent thru the newly installed 10 Gigabit router and fiber cable installed by Claude Schoch, High Mountain Farm Broadband. I am operating on RUMC 1 WIFI from the Social Hall. The Community of Rectortown and surrounding area, has successfully been connected via fiber optic cable, under a project that was started just months ago. Although there is much still to do, I wanted to mark this moment in time, as RUMC is depending on this service to help us continue to grow our congregation, means of providing high speed services and create a diverse set of capabilities at quality, speed and quantity not previously experienced. We must now continue to expand our programs and applications as we learn how to maximize this service.

Praise the Lord,
Larry

From the Board of Trustees

Fiberoptic Cable and Equipment Installation at RUMC

Claude Schoch (below) fabricates cables used to connect the main fiber optic cable at Rectortown UMC, on December 12, 2019. High Mountain Farm Broadband is the company installing the Rectortown and surrounding area fiber optic cable. The equipment box, will



distribute cable in multiple directions as well as ultimately connect a second fiber optic cable from the south side of the village. RUMC is providing equipment, space and backup power to the system.



Trustees Prepare RUMC History Room

The Board of Trustees working with the Admin Council and incoming RUMC Historian, Diane Harrington, have worked to prepare space for gathering and maintaining the church's history. The room, in the "White House" next to our Church Secretary, has been cleaned out, minor repairs completed, painted, new lights installed and some office furniture moved in. Diane will become the Church Historian on January 1, 2020.

RUMC Upcoming Meetings & Events

Thur – Jan 2	7:00pm	Admin Council Meets
Wed – Jan 8	10:00am	Worship Meets
Wed – Jan 8	6:00pm	Trustees Meet
Sat – Jan 11	10:00am	Remove decorations
*Tue – Jan 14	11:00am	Bible Study RUMC
	6:30pm	Bible Study RUMC
*Thur – Jan 16	11:00am	Bible Study MUMC
	6:30pm	Bible Study MUMC
Sun – Jan 19	11:00am	Worship at MUMC

**Meets weekly*

All events take place at Rectortown unless specified.

MUMC=Middleburg 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.